BUSINESS / B1

Exports surged 21.3% in August to $4.26B due to China's rising demand

PROPERTY / B2-1

Developers to woo 400,000 Filipinos overseas to buy property in their homeland

NEWS / A2

SWS survey shows GMA ratings slightly up in September

NEWS / A2

9 senators petition SC to annul Ombudsman ruling clearing Abalos, et al.

In Baguio, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—KOREANS HAVE MADE THE country's summer capital their second home and they want to return the favor by bringing snow here this Christmas.

Yes, snow.

Acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. stressed

IN BAGUIO/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, October 14, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 308 P18 website: www.inq7.net

For Erap docu's X-rating, censors get P1 budget

By Michael Lim Ubac

X-RATED KASI ANTI-GLORIA!

TWO SIDES NORMALLY at each other's throats got together yesterday to cut to a measly P1 the budget of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

FOR ERAP/ A4

CA rules partial retake

Also orders oath-taking for all passers outside Manila, Baguio

By Armand N. Nocum

THE NURSING GRADUATES WHO PASSED THE LICENSURE examination conducted in areas outside of Metro Manila and Baguio and those who registered at but did not attend the "final coaching" sessions of the three review centers suspected of leaking test questions may immediately take their oath as professional nurses, the Court of Appeals ruled yesterday.

In a much-awaited decision on the cheating scandal that rocked the nursing profession, the appellate court also ordered a retake of Tests III and V for 1,186 examinees whose names were added to the list of some 17,000 passers following the recomputation of test scores by the Professional Regulation Commission.

It also said that if found guilty of benefiting from the leak, those who attended the final coaching sessions of the R.A. Gapuz Review Center, Inress Review Center and Pentagon Review Specialist Inc. should retake Tests III and V.

"The tests that were conducted outside of Manila and Baguio were observed by both the respondents and the NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) to have been clean. The successful examinees thereat are therefore entitled to an immediate oath-taking and license," the court said in a 33-page decision written by Associate Justice Vicente S.E. Veloso and concurred in by Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes and Associate Justice Juan Enriquez.

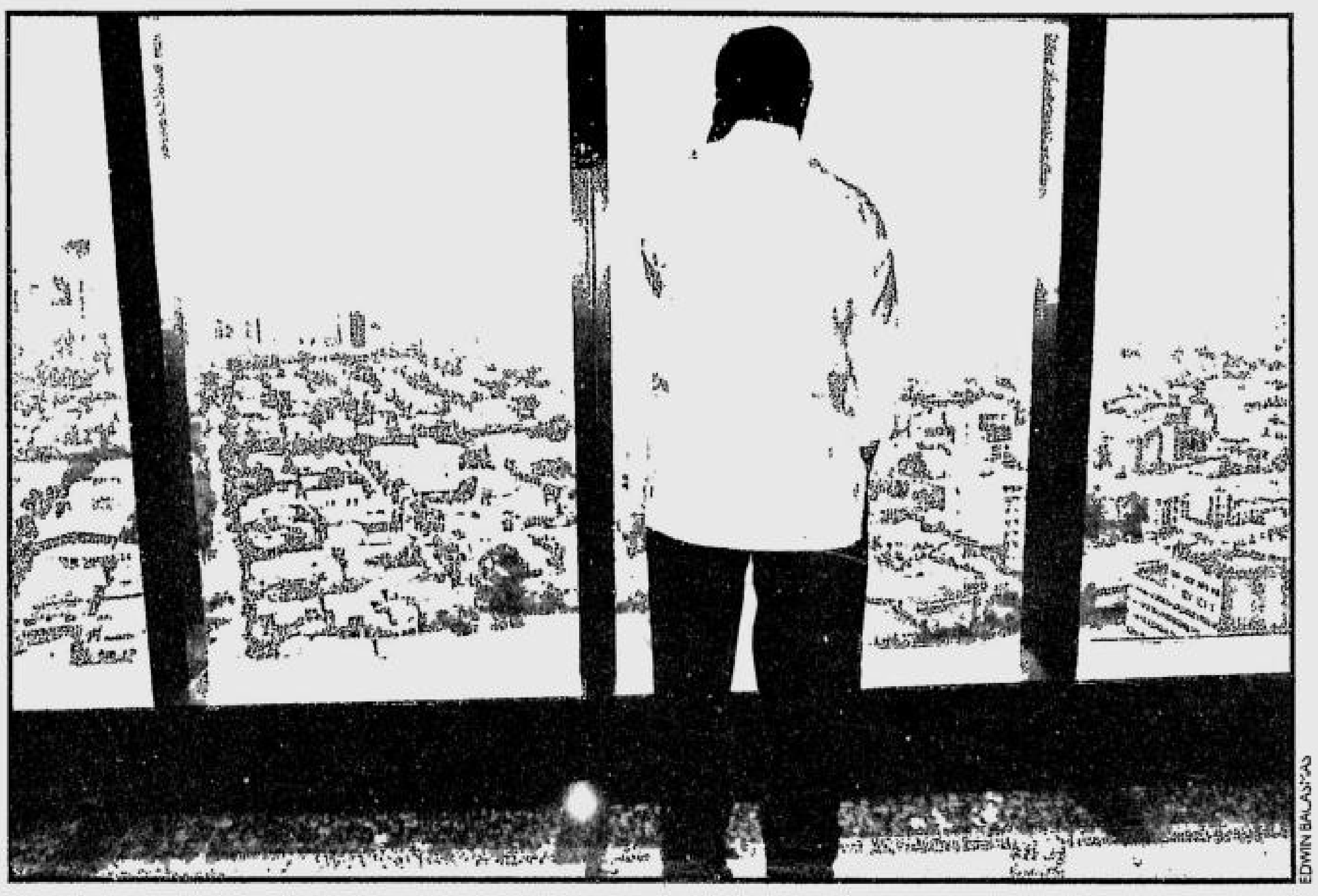
It added that "the Manila and Baguio examinees who did not review at Gapuz, Inress and Pentagon review centers and those who reviewed thereat but did not attend their final coaching" were entitled to the same.

"For pertinently, as hereafter ordered, only the examinees who may later be identified by respondents and/or the NBI to have attended the final coaching at Gapuz, Inress and Pentagon review centers are to be penalized with a retaking of Tests III and V," the court said.

Malacañang said the appellate court's decision vindicated its position on the controversy.

"We have been saying from the start

CA RULES/ A9



VIEW FROM THE TOP. Holed up in his office on the 21st floor of the Makati City Hall, Mayor Binay did not get a suspension order on Friday but on the same day one of his councilors says he's willing to testify against his former political ally. *(Story on Page A20.)*

MORE POWER: In Danao City on Friday, President Arroyo reiterates her concern about alleged power price fixing.

Probers rush to stop power rate increase

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Juliet Labog-Javellana**

A PRESIDENTIAL PROBE TEAM LOOKING INTO the allegations of price manipulation in the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) said it was rushing its investigation in order to stop the inflated prices from being reflected in the monthly electricity bills of customers of the Manila Electric Co.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, who heads the Cabinet-level probe body, said he did not believe the inflated prices have been passed on to consumers yet but has no idea when these would be reflected in consumers' electricity bills.

Customers of Meralco, the country's biggest electricity distributor, may have to pay higher rates because of the price spikes as Meralco buys most of its power supply from the WESM.

"That is why we are asking for all data so we can track when this will impact [on Meralco consumers] and if we can still prevent it," said Favila.

"This is the reason why the President is determined to get to the bottom of this," he said.

The WESM, created in the hopes that competi-

PROBERS/ A11

House passes ₱1.1-trillion budget in marathon session

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST TRILlion-peso budget was passed by the House of Representatives in a marathon session that began before noon Thursday and ended early morning yesterday.

The record budget was dubbed as the administration's "war chest" to defeat poverty, reduce national deficit and help finance the requirements of President Macapagal-Arroyo's social and economic reforms.

At 4:43 a.m., 198 House members ended 18 hours of plenary debate and approved on third and final reading the proposed P1.126-trillion General Appropriations Act for 2007.

Only seven lawmakers voted against it.

A clean copy of the budget bill will be sent to the Senate when both chambers of Congress resume session on Nov. 6, according to Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, chair of the House appropriations committee.

Sponsoring the measure last week, Salceda said Ms Arroyo would act as the disbursing officer of the Republic following a "spending authority under a budget law" passed by Congress.

"For each one of us here, we should not, therefore, submit ourselves to a reenacted budget and surrender the power of the purse to the Office of the President," Salceda said.

The government has been operating on a roll-over budget after Congress failed to agree on the final version of the 2006 budget bill.

"Our calling is likened to a lonely

HOUSE PASSES/ A4

Gringo, 48 others face new rebellion raps for failed coup

**By Armand N. Nocum
and Margaux C. Ortiz**

THEY HELD CLANDESTINE meetings in moving vehicles and in various hotels around Metro Manila and they used the latest generation cell phones to recruit more soldiers to join their plot.

With these claims, police and National Bureau of Investigation authorities yesterday filed a fresh complaint of rebellion against at least 49 people, led by former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and sacked Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, for their alleged role in a failed coup plot on Feb. 24 against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The plot supposedly involved communist rebels.

Investigators said the names of two Roman Catholic bishops and several businessmen also cropped up in their probe but they were not included in the complaint.

NBI Deputy Director Reynaldo Esmeralda said lack of evidence prevented the investigators from filing cases against Senators Panfilo Lacson and Rodolfo Biazon; former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos; former Congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, and Bishops Julio Labayen of Infanta, Quezon and Antonio Tobias of Novaliches, Quezon City.

The names of former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, ABC 5 chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, construction mogul Felipe Almeda Cruz Jr. and businessman Iñigo Zobel also came up during the investigation but none of them were included in the new complaint.

"But this does not mean that they are off the hook. We are still continuing the investigation by gathering and evaluating additional pieces of evidence against these persons," Esmeralda told

GRINGO/ A6

Civilians to be armed vs terror

By Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—CIVILIAN volunteers nationwide will be armed by the government in an effort to counter terror threats, especially in Mindanao, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno announced here on Thursday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has signed Executive Order No. 465 aimed at mobilizing civilian volunteer organizations (CVOs) as police auxiliary units to address terrorism and other crimes, Puno said at a meeting of Cotabato City's peace and order council that he attended along with Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon.

The CVOs will only be authorized to operate in their respec-

CIVILIANS/ A8

Bangladeshi Grameen founder wins Nobel Peace

OSLO—BANGLADESHI ECONOMIST Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank he founded won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for grassroots efforts to lift millions out of poverty that earned him the nickname "banker to the poor."

"It's very happy news for me and also for the nation. But it has burdened us with further responsibility," Bangladesh's first Nobel laureate told reporters at his home in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka.

"Now the war against poverty will be further intensified across the world. It will consolidate the struggle against poverty through microcredit in most of the countries. There should be no poverty, anywhere."

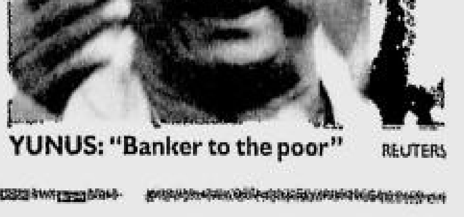
Yunus, 66, set up a new kind of bank in 1976 to lend to the very poorest in his native Bangladesh, particularly women, enabling them to start up small businesses without collateral.

In doing so, he pioneered microcredit, a system copied in more than 100 nations from the United States to Uganda.

The secretive five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee said the elimination of poverty was a path to peace and democracy.

"Every single individual on earth has both the potential and the right to live a decent life. Across cultures and civilizations, Yunus and Grameen Bank have shown that even the poorest of the poor can work to bring about their own development," the

BANGLADESHI/ A10



YUNUS: "Banker to the poor" REUTERS

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, PDI RESEARCH/10/13/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	CLoudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

9 senators ask SC to sanction Ombudsman, annul decision

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NINE SENATORS YESTERDAY ASKED the Supreme Court to annul the Ombudsman resolution absolving the Commission on Elections of criminal liability in the voided P1.3 billion poll automation deal and to sanction Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez for disrespecting the high court.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., a complainant in the Mega Pacific deal that the SC voided in 2004, was joined by opposition senators Sergio Osmeña, Panfilo Lacson, Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal, Luisa Ejercito Estrada and Jinggoy Estrada and administration senators Richard Gordon and Rodolfo Biazon.

The petition to annul the Ombudsman's decision and cite Gutierrez for contempt was filed by lawyer Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, the senator's son who is said to be a bar topnotcher.

The senators said the Ombudsman's Sept. 27, 2006 resolution exonerating Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and other commissioners was "patently erroneous, arbitrary, whimsical, contrary to law and issued with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction" and should be annulled.

They said Gutierrez exonerated the Comelec officials for insufficient evidence when there was an "overwhelming body of evidence to warrant the indictment of the respondents which was mentioned in the Supreme Court decision on Jan. 19, 2000."

They cited the SC decision which said the "Comelec and its officials concerned must bear full responsibility for the failed bidding and award, and held accountable for the electoral mess wrought by their grave abuse of discretion in the performance of their functions."

They said Gutierrez disregarded the evidence gathered by the Ombudsman's Field Investigation Office which recommended the criminal prosecution of all the Comelec commissioners as well as the members of the Comelec bids and awards committee and the officers of Mega Pacific.

The senators said Gutierrez was in contempt of the SC for disobeying the high court's ruling on the Mega Pacific deal which amounted to "defiance of the court's authority."

Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura meanwhile said the decision of the Ombudsman clearing five Comelec officials of liability in the poll automation deal could affect the government's pending case to recover the P1.2 billion that was paid to Mega Pacific for the automated counting machines that remain unused.

"It could eventually boil down to a dilemma but we are doing what the Supreme Court has directed us to do. It is proceeding as scheduled," Nachura told reporters yesterday.

In its decision voiding the contract, the high court ordered the Solicitor General to recover the money that the government had advanced to Mega Pacific.

Nachura noted that even before his office could file the case for reimbursement, Mega Pacific filed a counter claim against the government to collect the unpaid portion of its P1.3 billion contract.

Recent developments in the Ombudsman and the Senate could affect the case which is at the pre-trial stage in the Makati regional trial court.

The government's dilemma is this: Since the Ombudsman has ruled that no wrongdoing attended the contract, does that mean it should use the machines and pay the balance to Mega Pacific? But the contract was voided by the Supreme Court.

Gov't printing office head suspended

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BROTHER OF EASTERN Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, a top ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was ordered suspended after being accused of rigging a public bidding of the National Printing Office (NPO).

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita signed the 90-day suspension order of NPO acting director Felipe Evardone, upon the recommendation of Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) chair Constancia de Guzman.

De Guzman said the PAGC found probable cause in the complaint of Ernest Printing Corp. Anselmo Badillo who complained of the anomalous bidding for the printing of forms for the Bureau of Customs last April 10.

Malacañang said that Evardone's suspension showed that its campaign against corruption did not have sacred cows.

His brother, Governor Evardone, has been one of the most vocal supporters of Ms Arroyo among local government officials especially at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal last year and is one of the leaders for the Palace-backed people's initiative for charter change.

Evardone told the INQUIRER that he had filed a motion for reconsideration with the PAGC and was able to hold off the suspension order.

GMA approval rating rises, says SWS poll

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS WON BACK SOME SUPport from Filipinos as oil prices eased and the peso strengthened, a new poll showed. But overall, she still has a negative satisfaction rating, and analysts say her road will likely remain bumpy before congressional elections next May.

Leading pollster Social Weather Stations (SWS) said 37 percent of respondents were satisfied with Arroyo's performance and 48 percent dissatisfied, a net rating of minus 11 percent.

"This is slightly up from the second quarter, which had 34 percent satisfied and likewise 48 percent dissatisfied, or a net minus 13 percent, correctly rounded," SWS said in a statement on its Web site posted late on Thursday.

The survey involved 1,200 people interviewed across the Philippines from Sept. 24 to Oct. 2 and had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Arroyo, an economist and daughter of a late president, is the only Philippine leader since ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos to have a negative satisfaction rating, making her more vulnerable to attacks by groups that have been seeking her removal since she rose to power in 2001.

It is Arroyo's ninth consecutive negative rating, since the third quarter of 2004, SWS said in its statement.

By region, Arroyo's satisfaction rating is favorable only in the Visayas, where it grew to +6, from +2 in June. It remained unfavorable in Metro Manila (-41 from -48) and in the rest of Luzon (-10 from -13). In Mindanao, it dipped slightly to -8, from -7 in June.

Ms Arroyo's net satisfaction score in rural areas increased most significantly (from -12 to -1), with the percentage of those saying they were satisfied with her performance growing to 42 percent, from 34 percent in June. In urban areas, on the other hand, her score dipped slightly to -17 from -15 in the last survey round.

Her score also slightly increased across socio-economic classes, with her net rating improving to -20 from -27 among middle-to-upper classes (ABC); to -6 from -10 among the *masa* (class D); and to -18 from -22 among the very poor(E class).

By gender, President Arroyo's net satisfaction rating also improved slightly among women, to -11 from -17.

Malacañang was pleased with the slight improvement of President Arroyo's satisfaction ratings and attributed this to the "gains" being achieved by her administration which it said were now being felt by the people.

"As the economy moves forward some more and as we see the dying down of the political issues and efforts to bring down the President, I think the President will continue to build on the trust of our people," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said in a phone patch interview with reporters.

Arroyo, due to leave office in 2010, survived an impeachment attempt two months ago and an alleged coup plot in February by rogue troops, communist rebels and some of her political foes. *Reuters, Christine Avendaño and Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

Sandigan sentences cult leader to 31 years in jail for graft

RUBEN ECLEO: Still free on "humanitarian grounds" and a bond of P1 million.

THE PHILIPPINE ANTIGRAFT COURT SENtenced the leader of a religious, anti-communist cult to more than 31 years in prison on Friday for corruption when he was mayor of San Jose town, Surigao del Norte in the early 1990s.

Ruben Ecleo, also on trial in another court over the murder of his wife, is worshipped by about 3 million followers, some of whom place his picture beside statues of Jesus Christ.

The Sandiganbayan, in a decision penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta, found Ecleo guilty of ordering the release of nearly P8 million to three unfinished public construction projects in San Jose town in Surigao del Norte province between 1991 and 1994.

The court ordered him to pay the local government about P2.86 million, the amount of the excess payments he had made for the building of a public market, a new municipal building, and the repair of a third building owned by the PBMA Women's League.

On the last item, a private building, Ecleo had told the court that he was made to believe the money was for the repair of the municipal guesthouse—a defense the court found "incredible" because the town did not even own a guesthouse.

The private contractor involved in the anomalies, Ricardo Santillano of the PBMA Builders Inc., was also found guilty of two counts of graft and was meted 21 years in prison.

Ecleo, also a musician with a guitar-shaped swimming pool at his island mansion, stood quietly when the verdict was read out. He will stay out of prison on "humanitarian grounds" and a bond of P1 million while he appeals his conviction to a higher court.

Ecleo is "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, a Christian-based group organized by his father in the 1960s and active in the fight against communist rebels on the southern island of Mindanao.

For the last six years, he has been on trial in Cebu for the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod. Her body was found wrapped in a black garbage bag and dumped in a ravine.

At least 16 people died in May 2000 when thousands of his followers tried to stop the police from arresting him.

Ecleo's mother, elected in 2004 as a congresswoman, is an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo. *Reuters, Norman Bordadora*

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ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2nd SEMESTER S.Y. 2006-2007 IS NOW GOING ON

Book on Loren legacy launched

By Cynthia D. Balana

WAS IT A BOOK LAUNCH OR WAS FORMER Sen. Loren Legarda making a political comeback?

Despite the political color that marked Thursday's launching of the book, "The Story of Loren Legarda: Her Legacy and Vision," at the Manila Polo Club, Legarda herself downplayed its political significance.

Legarda said the book had nothing to do with speculations that she would run in next year's senatorial elections or in the 2010 presidential election.

She ran for vice president with opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in May 2004. Legarda lost the race, but continues to pursue an election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro.

"People say I'm eyeing the presidency. Never say never. As of now, I simply launched a book," Legarda told the INQUIRER.

She said she was not even sure whether there would be senatorial elections in May next year, citing the aggressive efforts of the proponents of Charter change to shift to parliamentary system.

She said the issue of whether or not there would be an election next year depends on the Supreme Court which would decide on the issue of the validity of the people's initiative for Charter change.

Legarda expressed hopes for national recovery from economic woes and political divisiveness during the launching, which was attended by prominent political, business and diplomatic personalities.

The glossy 200-page book, authored by Maria Rosa Nieva Carrion-Buck and coauthored by Mario Lourdes Javier Brillantes relates the story of Legarda's childhood, education, marriage and personal life, as well as her broadcasting and political career.

"People just don't realize the blood, sweat and tears I shed to get to where I am. It has been a life of constant struggle," Legarda said. "I am a dreamer, especially of visions difficult to accomplish."

Another Customs official fails lifestyle check; charges filed

By Norman Bordadora

LIEFESTYLE CHECKERS OF THE Department of Finance yesterday filed charges against a customs official for unexplained wealth in the form of prime real estate in Quezon City and in a golf estate in Antipolo.

Investigators from the DOF's Revenue Integrity and Protection System filed charges against Marlina Osmilio, a customs operations officer at the Port of Manila, for allegedly amassing wealth estimated at P50 million despite earning an annual salary of just P230,000.

"Her spouse is a businessman looking after a coconut plantation that they own in Marinduque City. But he's not earning enough [for them to afford the pieces of property they bought]," said lawyer Romeo Tomas, Jr. of the DOF-RIPS.

He said Osmilio did not declare in her statement of assets and liabilities nine pieces of property in Capitol Hills, Quezon City, and three other properties in the Forest Hills Residential Estates, Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

Tomas noted that the couple did not have any children who are gainfully employed.

Osmilio, who has been with the BOC since 1979, declared a net worth of just P67,000 that year. The DOF-RIPS placed her net worth in 2005 at "more or less" P50 million.

The couple also owned a coconut plantation worth P7.5 million, a "fully appointed" house and lot in Marinduque and another house in Bulacan, according to finance investigators.

Osmilio was found to have several vehicles—a Ford Expedition, a Toyota Altis sedan, a Toyota Hi-Ace van and two Isuzu Elf trucks, models 1986 and 2000.

Tomas said she also traveled abroad frequently, which she claimed was paid for by someone else.

"She didn't inform the bureau about these travels, that's a violation," he said.

Oct. 24 declared a holiday

MALACANANG YESTERDAY declared Oct. 24 as a regular holiday throughout the country, in observance of the Eid'l Fitr, the Muslim Feast of Ramadhan.

"(The holiday was declared) in order to bring the religious and cultural significance of the Eid'l Fitr to the fore of national consciousness," said Proclamation No. 1155 which Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita signed, by authority of President Macapagal Arroyo.

It would also allow the entire nation to join its Muslim brothers and sisters in this celebration.

Eid'l Fitr is celebrated by the Muslim world for three days after the end of the month of fasting.

Christine O. Avendano

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PASEO de STA. ROSA - Ground Floor
Provincial:
AYALA CENTER CEBU - Ground Floor
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ROBINSON'S BACOLOD - Ground Floor
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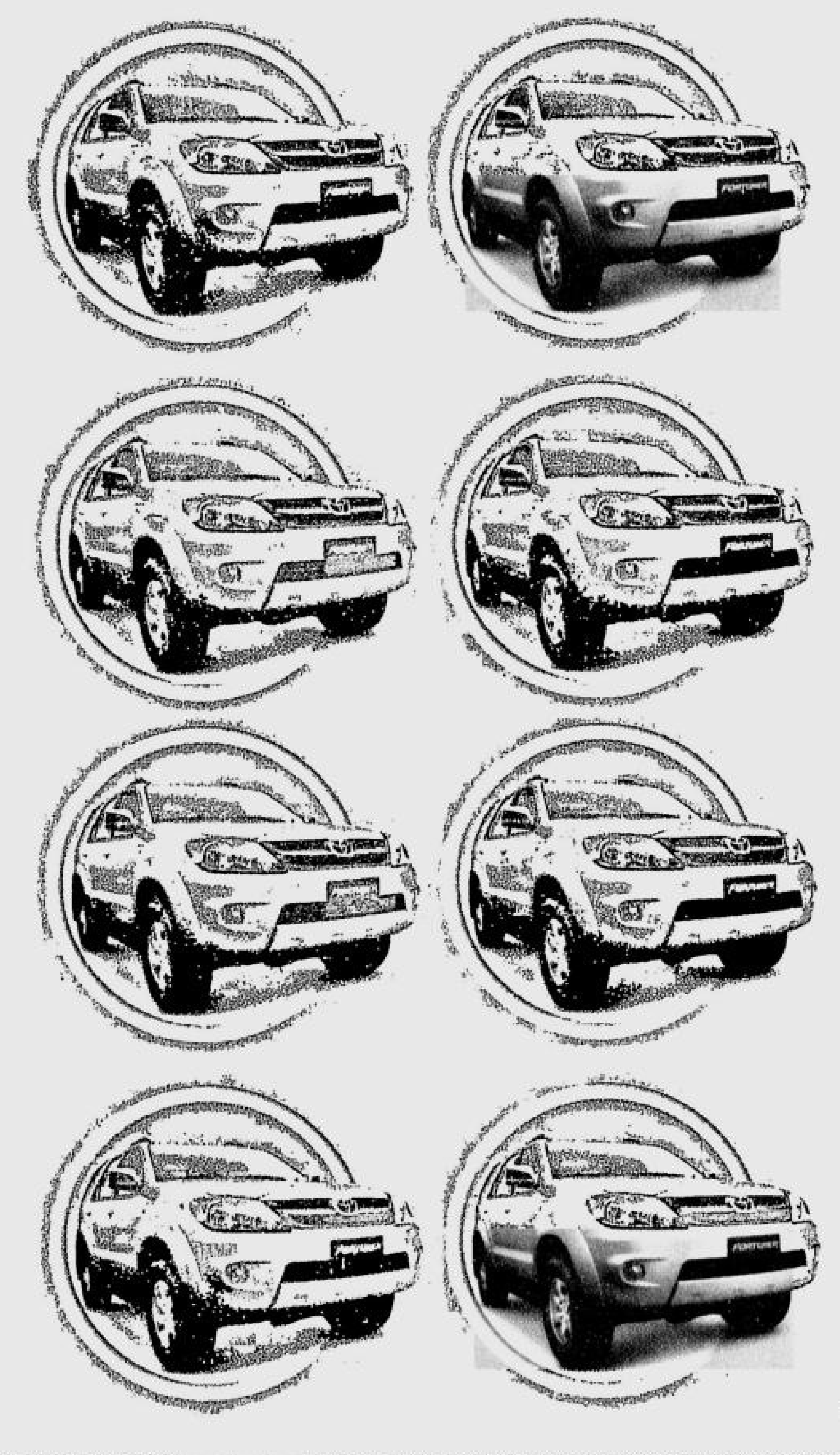

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House passes P1.1-trillion budget in marathon session

From page A1

watchman, guarding the interest of his superiors especially on a matter so important to them, (like) how the taxes they were forced to pay the government will be spent," Salceda said.

P550M more to Ombudsman

The measure, which was certified as urgent by Malacañang, contained an amendment initiated by Speaker Jose de Venecia—and concurred in by Minority Leader Francis Escudero—allocating P550 million more to the Office of the Ombudsman to strengthen its capacity in fighting public corruption.

In contrast, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board got a P1-budget for adamantly refusing to lift the X-rating on President Joseph Estrada's biopic *(See story on Page A1)*.

De Venecia congratulated both the majority and minority members for "making good its commitment to the Filipino people" to pass the 1,131-page budget measure contained in House Bill No. 5794.

Balanced budget

De Venecia expressed his gratitude particularly to Salceda, who steered the passage of the measure through committee and plenary debates.

The Speaker told reporters that the approval of the budget was "a prelude to our march toward a balanced budget" even before 2010, the time frame under the Philippine Medium Development Plan drawn by the Arroyo administration.

"Approving the spending measure is a fulfillment of our contract with our constituents who have sent us here," said De Venecia. "The proposed budget is backed by P100 billion from the expanded value-added tax law resulting to a much-reduced deficit."

De Venecia expressed confidence the upper chamber would be able to approve the measure before the Christmas break, saying, "I believe that the Senate will be circumspect, and the senators are statesmen."

Several 'firsts'

Salceda said the House scored several "firsts" in the budget deliberations.

Completed in five weeks from the start of the deliberations, the 2007 GAA was the fastest, at least since 1987, to be passed at the committee and plenary levels.

"It is the first to be approved on 2nd and 3rd readings on the same day with the President certifying it as urgent," he said, adding: "With only seven nays, it's the biggest voting majority for a budget measure."

The top five departments which received the lion's share were Education, P132.9 billion; Public Works and Highways, P65.3 billion; Interior and Local Government, P51.1 billion; National Defense, P49.5-billion, and Agriculture, inclusive of its Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Program component, P18.5 billion.

The other departments' allocations are as follows: Transportation and Communications, P17.5 billion; Agrarian Reform, P15.6 billion; Health, 11.7 billion; Commission on Elections, P9.8 billion, and the judiciary P9.7 billion.

The Speaker said interest payments stayed at the 2006 figure of P339.998 billion.

The proposed GAA would allow every Filipino in the "super regions" of the country to have the opportunity to rise from where he is, Salceda said.

Mandatory expenses

Of the P1.126-trillion proposed expenditure program, only about 22 percent or P248 billion "may be subject to debate while the other 78 percent or P878 billion represents mandatory expenses which seem to be out of Congress' discretion," said Salceda.

The 78 percent consists of P357 billion for personal services, P184 billion for Internal Revenue Allotment, P318 billion for interest payments and about P19 billion for other mandatory expenditures.

The balance of 22 percent would support the regular operations of the various agencies of government. This means that P140 billion would go to maintainance and other operating expenses and P108 billion to capital outlays.

Malacañang welcomed the House passage of the budget measure.

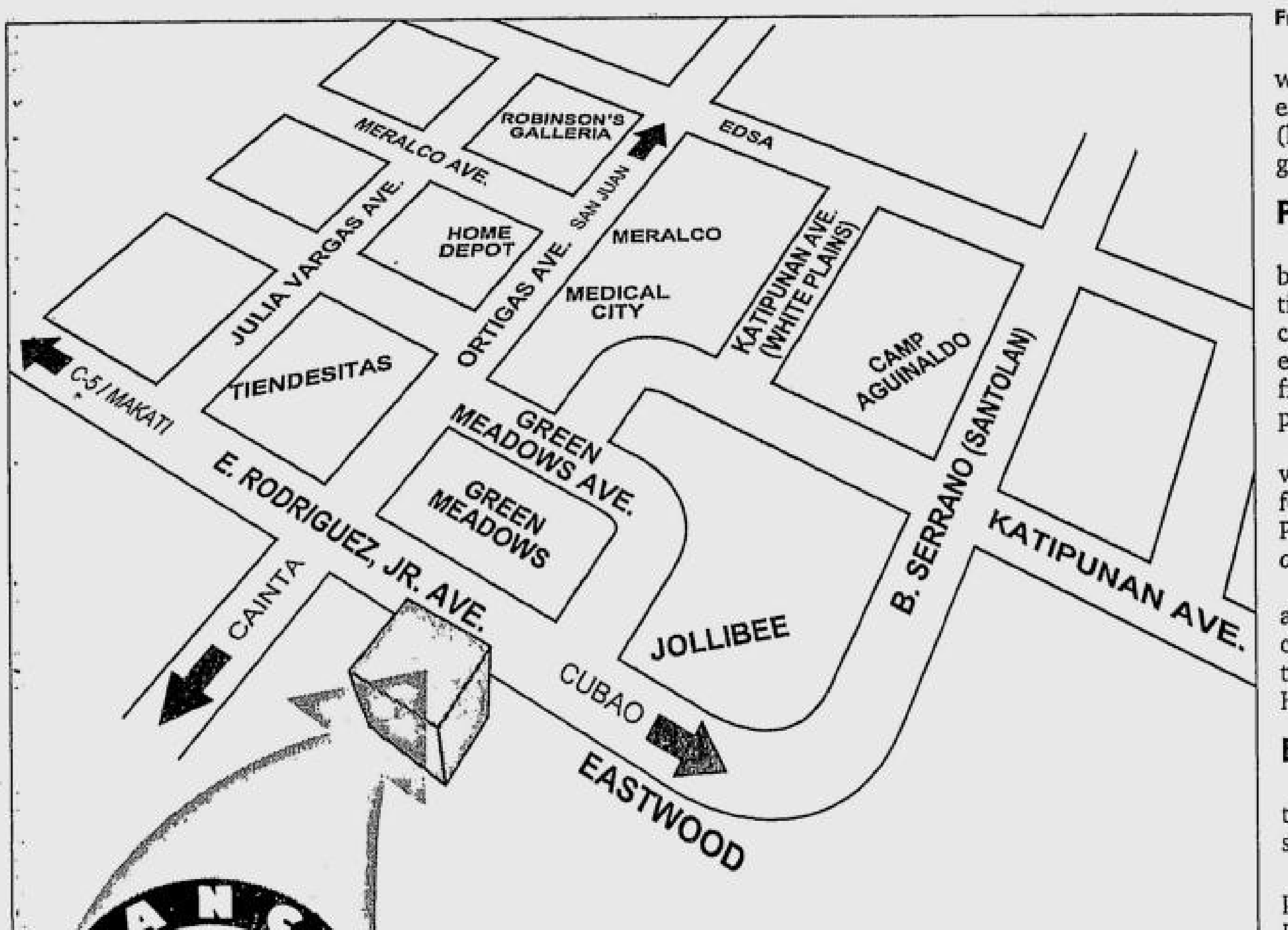
In time for Christmas

"With the Senate vigorously holding parallel committee hearings, we are confident that this spending package will be on the President's table before Christmas so that programs it would fund can be enjoyed by the people on the first day of 2007," said Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya in a statement.

"It's good to have the budget approved as soon as possible because the operating agencies should anticipate the things they need to do procedurally by day one or two after approval," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in an interview.

Teves noted that some projects had suffered from delays in financing because of the problems on absorptive capacity.

"I feel a lot better with the House approving the budget. We have a lot of catching up to do in our infrastructure and social services. People don't realize that the budget allows us to translate these items into projects meaningful to the people," said Teves. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



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For Erap docu's X-rating, censors get P1 budget

From page A1

The House majority and minority finally found common cause after the MTRCB refused to lift the X-rating it gave the biopic of former President Joseph Estrada.

Short of seeking the abolition of the review board, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero moved to reduce MTRCB's proposed P30-million budget to P1, making the proposal at about 3 a.m. yesterday when the chamber was about to vote on the P1-trillion budget bill for 2007. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Ironically, the majority and the minority were finally on the same side.

Escudero tried to play a compact disc copy of the Estrada docu during the plenary budget debate on Thursday to prove that it did not deserve an X-rating, but was quickly barred by the majority.

Escudero said the board not only failed to carry out its mandate, "it's clearly performing a function it does not have," Escudero said.

The House was not happy with the X-rating the MTRCB gave to Estrada's documentary when clearly, "there was no need for them to do so," said Majority Leader Prospero Nograles.

Still relevant?

Nograles said banning the docu, "*Ang Mabuhay Para sa Masa* (To Live for the Masses)," only elicited "unnecessary controversy."

"They only put the administration on the spot. We feel it's curtailment of freedom of expression. That's the House's sentiment," he said.

Nograles also questioned the relevance of the MTRCB, saying: "Their functions must be reviewed if still relevant."

In previous interpellations, Escudero had asked if the agency had assumed the role of a censors' board for banning movies it deemed unfit for public consumption.

On Wednesday, he asked that the approval of the MTRCB budget for next year be deferred unless it could justify its decision to ban the Estrada documentary from being aired on television.

The Estrada camp has been asking Malacañang to allow the public exhibition of the documentary which talks about Estrada's life as movie actor, mayor, senator, vice president and president.

Threatens state stability

In a memorandum dated Aug. 28, the MTRCB explained that the documentary was "disapproved for airing on television" because it tended to "threaten the political stability of the state, undermine the faith and confidence of the people in the government, [be] libelous or defamatory, and [pertained] to matters that are sub judice in nature."

The board pointed out that "the last three minutes" of the documentary provided the basis for the ban, particularly the narration: "*Nalalapit na ang bagong umaga dahil sa lakas ng puwersa ng masa at muli ng babangon* (A new day is dawning because of the power of the masses that will rise again)."

MTRCB Chair Ma. Consoliza Laguardia earlier noted that "the docu's first part, which recounted Estrada's rise to power, was commendable."

Defamatory

However, she said, "it is in recounting his ouster that the docu became highly opinionated, resorting to defamatory statements against certain personalities, including the late Jaime Cardinal Sin."

Estrada counsel Rufus Rodriguez protested, saying the video was a newsreel and was, therefore, exempt from any attempt by the MTRCB to ban its public exhibition.

Rodriguez questioned the MTRCB position that the newsreel could undermine the faith and confidence of the people in the government.

"The truth is the biography was banned because of a perception that it is anti-Gloria Arroyo," he said.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a Business Friday story on Page B2-2, "Small firm banks on size to take on giant rivals," misstated the last name of the IP Ventures head. He was correctly identified as Enrique Y. Gonzalez in the first two times his name was mentioned, but the subsequent paragraphs mistakenly referred to him as Enriquez.

* * *

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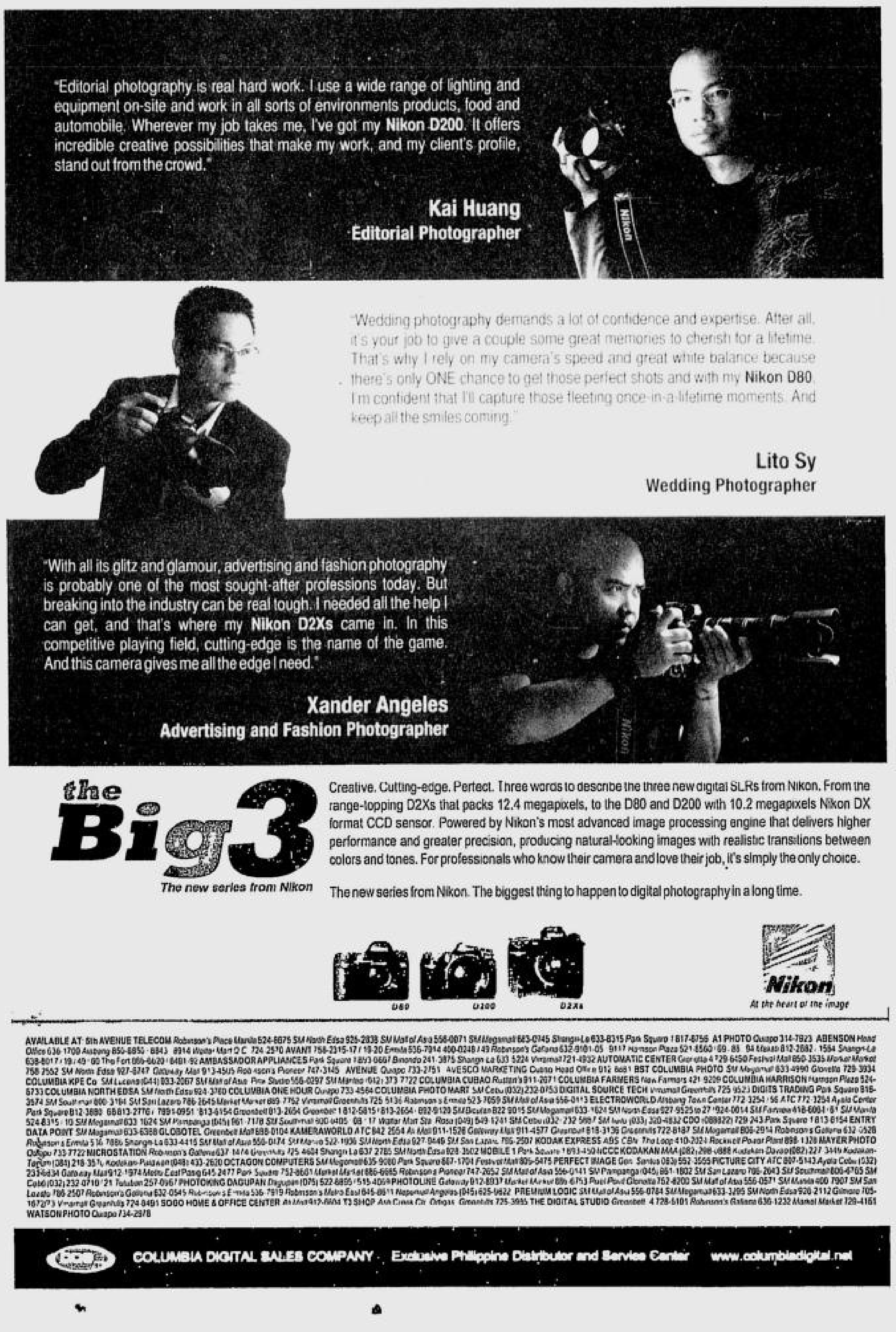
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Stage 1 of Guimaras clean-up over--DND

By Alcuin Papa

THE FIRST PHASE IN THE clean-up of the oil spill in Guimaras province has been completed, the defense department said yesterday.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, also concurrent chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), said that 1.3 kilometers of coastlines have already been cleared of oil sludge from the sunken M/T Solar 1.

The next phase, he said, involves an "environmental rehabilitation plan" of the affected areas.

"The stage one of the cleanup is finished. The environmental rehabilitation plan, and its method of implementation is next," Cruz told reporters yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo.

Cruz said the environmental rehabilitation plan involves bringing the state of the mangroves, sea grass and coral reefs in the area to its pre-oil spill state.

The plan will be finalized by environment, science and ecology experts.

He said the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) is expected to approve operations to siphon the remaining fuel in the sunken ship by Oct. 23.

The IOPC, an international organization of petroleum companies, had agreed to pay between $30 to $40 million for the cleanup and compensation of those affected by the oil slick, Cruz added.

The defense chief also said a group of experts and officials are two weeks into a six-month "complex engineering study" to plan the siphoning operations, which would cost between $8 to 10 million.

Cruz said a European company will be commissioned to siphon the remaining oil inside the ship. This, he said, could take between 30 to 45 days.

"We are studying the final method and timetable [for the siphoning]," he said.

NBI team investigates airport security breach

By Nikko Dizon

A NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) team assessed the security procedures at the Manila Domestic Airport yesterday as part of its investigation into the reported security breach carried out by firearms expert Samson Macariola.

"We want to determine if passengers with a C4 bomb or blasting caps could get past airport security," NBI team leader Darwin Francisco told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Macariola was reported to have put together bomb materials on board a flight to Davao City last August 14 in a controversial caper aimed at testing the adequacy of aviation security measures. After stirring up an explosive controversy, Macariola, a consultant of anti-terrorism czar and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, later claimed that he carried only dummy materials.

Aviation security officials had denounced the alleged test as an unauthorized folly that could have endangered the lives of the passengers on the flight.

Francisco said the NBI intends to wrap up next week its investigation into the Macariola affair, which was initially reported to have been commissioned by a government agency.

Following the report, the Aviation Security Group implemented stricter security measures at domestic terminals, such as the mandatory removal of shoes for all passengers.

"Security appears tight". Francisco said when asked about his initial assessment.

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OCT. 13 - 31
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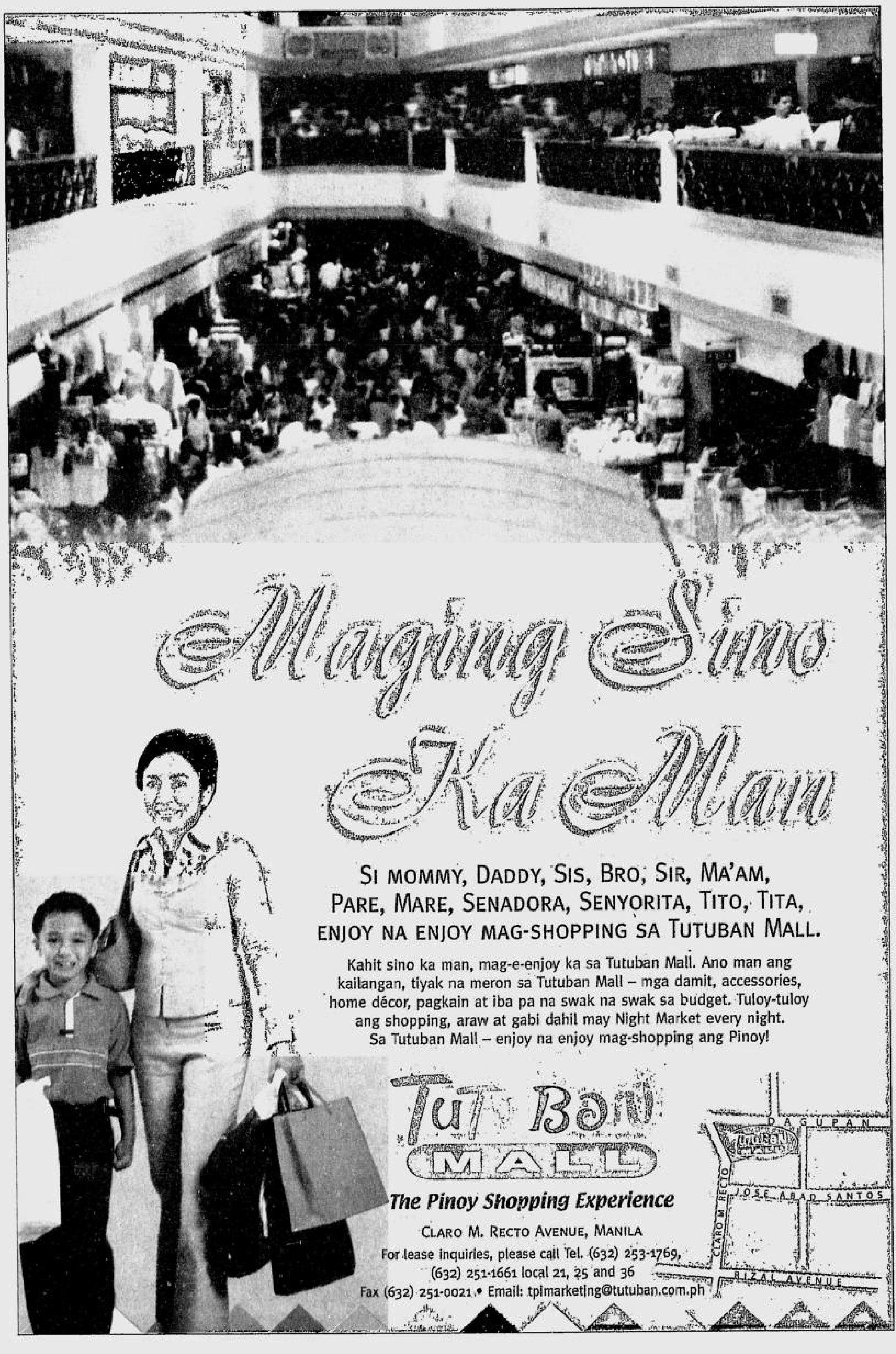
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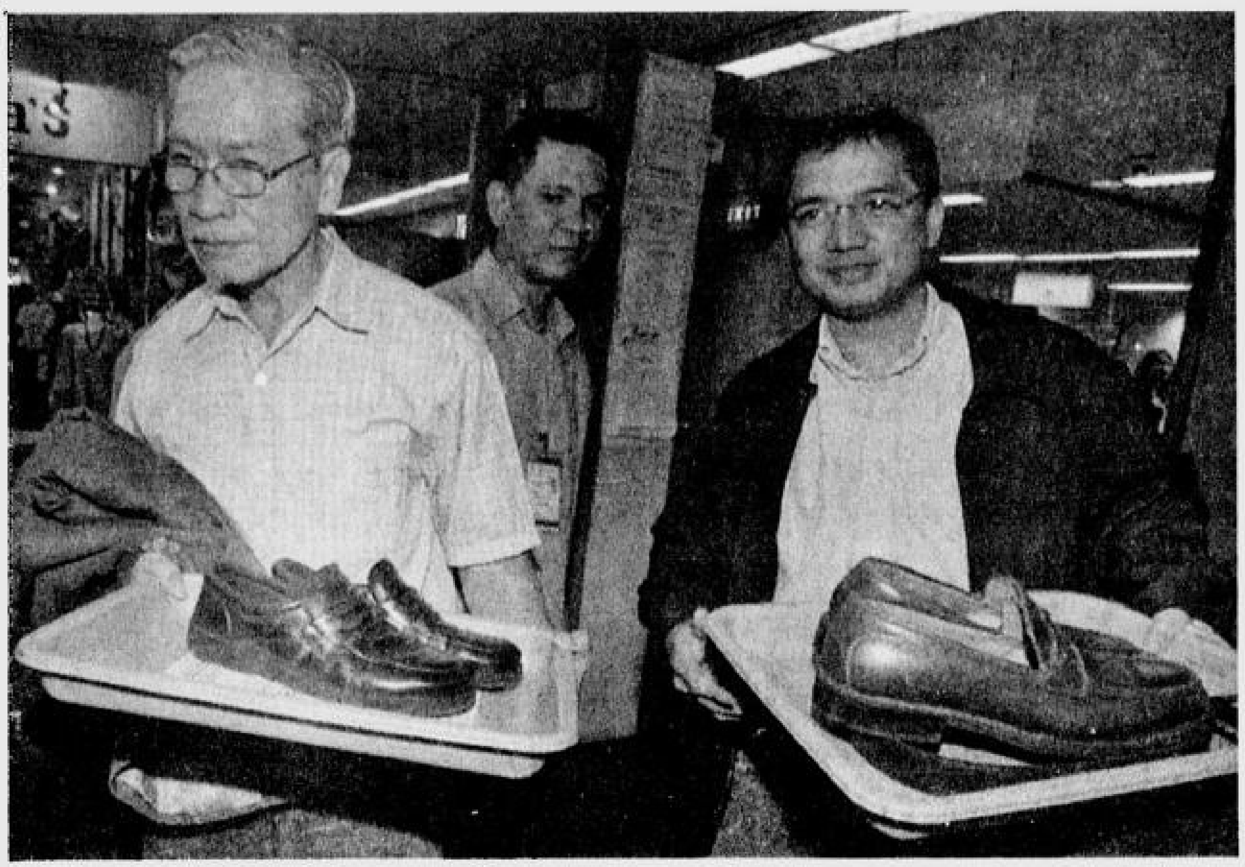


TAKING IT ALL OFF: Party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo (left) and Teddy Casiño go through the final screening at the Naia before their departure for Geneva. JESS YUSON

AFP: Time for plotters to face the music

By Alcuin Papa

THE MILITARY SAID YESTERDAY IT was time for those who took part in the failed coup last February to "face the music" as it welcomed the filing of a new complaint against them.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado also said investigators had gathered "strong evidence" against the accused.

"This goes to show that if you fall out of line within what's allowed by law, you will be made to face the consequence," Honrado said. "There is no reason for you to dilly-dally. If the evidence says you are guilty, so be it. You have to face the music."

Vicente Verdadero, a lawyer for Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, one of those named in the complaint, declined to comment until he and his client had received a copy of the charges.

Pulido laughs off charges

Counsels for two other senior officers accused, former Marines Commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, could not be reached.

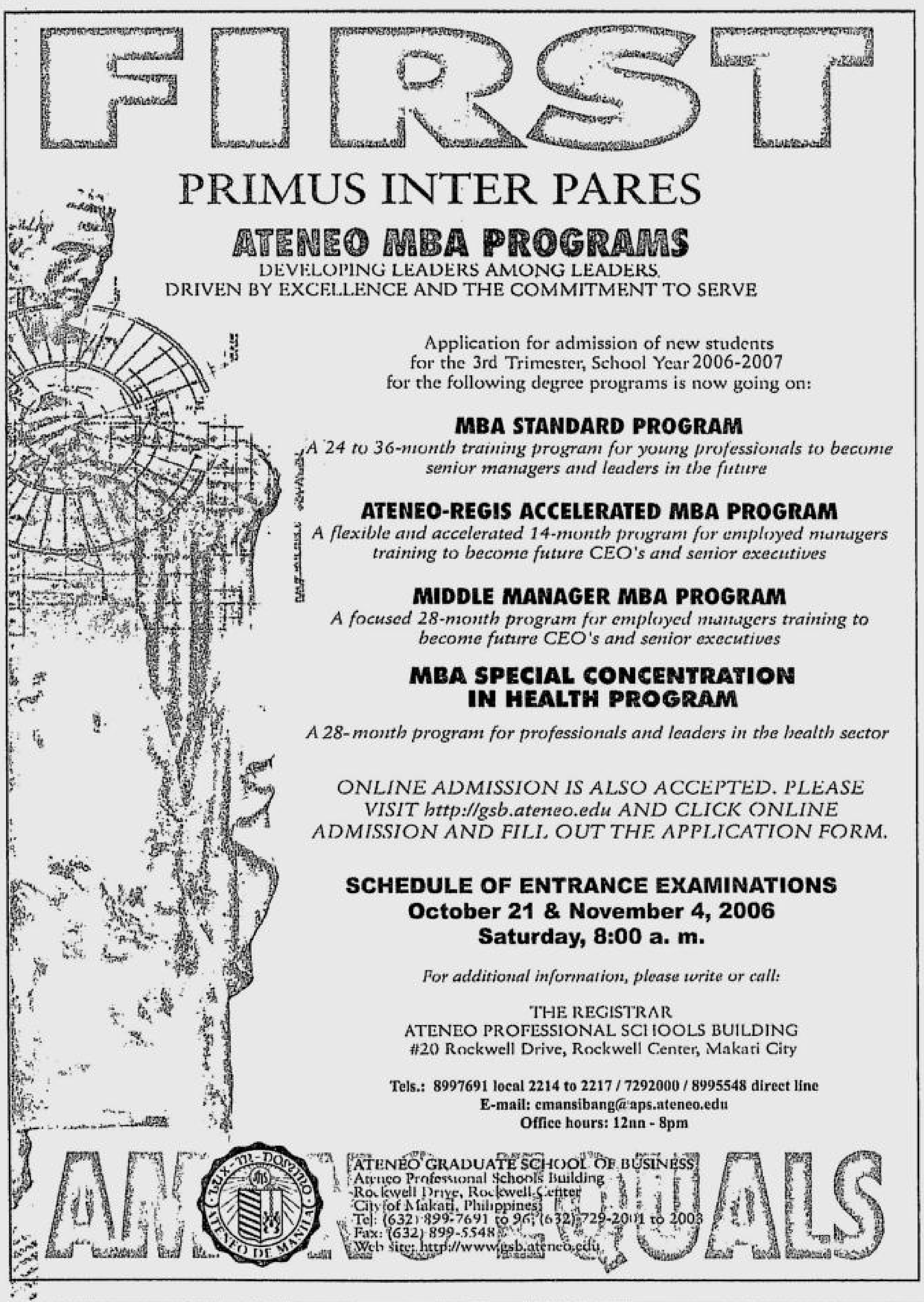
Lawyer Roel Pulido, who was included in the charges and who used to lawyer for the rebel Magdalo soldiers, laughed off the allegations against him.

According to the complaint, Pulido was part of the coup plotters' propaganda team.

No rebellion

"How do you react to that?" Pulido asked jokingly." Assuming that is true, does that constitute rebellion?" he said in a phone interview.

The charges were based heavily on sworn statements of two former Magdalo soldiers, Army First Lt. Patricio Bumidang Jr. and Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava.



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Gringo, 48 others face new rebellion raps for failed coup

From page A1

the INQUIRER.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said: "They are not of the woods, but they are not being charged either."

Esmeralda said many of those named in the complaint had been previously charged before a court in Makati City with involvement in the February plot but two of them were being named for the first time—former Ambassador Roy Señeres and Council of the Philippine Affairs leader Pastor "Boy" Saycon.

Copa is part of a civil society group that has been calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Hotel meetings

The complaint was filed with the Department of Justice which will determine if there is enough evidence to bring those named in it to court.

Esmeralda said the complaint was intended to strengthen the Makati cases and could be consolidated with them or heard separately by a court.

The complaint said some of those involved in the supposed conspiracy to overthrow Ms Arroyo—including Honasan, Lim and lawyers Christopher Belmonte and Roel Pulido—held meetings in such places as the Century Park Hotel in Manila and Aberdeen Court Hotel in Quezon City.

Junior officers involved in the plot met "mostly inside moving vehicles," the complaint said.

Images on cell phones

On some occasions, some of the plotters "used 3G phone" showing the images of Lim and supposed fellow plotter Navy Col. Ariel Querubin.

"Although the two senior officers were not heard talking, the gestures of their images on the screen show approval [of the plot]," the complaint said.

"They are still being evaluated. We believe that we still don't have substantial evidence against them," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER, referring to the church and business figures who were not included in the complaint.

Asked by the INQUIRER whether they may still be included, Gonzalez replied: "Oh! Yes! Oh! Yes! The possibility is still there."

Asked about the bishops, he replied: "Yes! They are still being evaluated."

He said this was the reason why the complaint mentioned several "John Does."

Señeres affidavit

The names of the businessmen cropped up as per the affidavit of Señeres.

HONASAN: Tightening the noose

"He (Señeres) also said that a certain freelance journalist Cecilio Arillo is go-between of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Sen. Panfilo Lacson," the complaint quoted the Señeres affidavit as stating.

In the complaint written in the form of an eight-page letter to the DOJ, Esmeralda and Criminal and Investigation Detective Group Police Director Jesus A. Versoza named 22 officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, two officers of the national police, 19 civilians, former military and police officials; and at least five supposed members of the Communist Party of the Philippines New People's Army.

Apart from Honasan, Lim, Querubin, Señeres and Saycon, others named in the complaint were Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Col. Orlando de Leon, Col. Januario Caringal and Lt. Col. Armando Banez.

Also included in the charge sheet were an alias "Don Pepe Araneta," Jaime R. Regalario aka Jimmy/Juliet, retired officers Lt. Col. Reynaldo Cabauatan, Navy Capt. Felix Turingan, Col. Jake Malajacan, Col. Rafael Galvez, Col. Mel Acosta, CSupt. Victor Batac, lawyers Roel Pulido and Christopher Belmonte.

Academicians included

Likewise named were academicians Renato Constantino, Prudencio "Dodong" Nemenzo, Mauie Constantino, a certain Cristina Antonio aka Friday, Betina Balderama aka Angie, Michael Yangson, Jess Fernandez aka Sy, Allan Paje, Jay Malajacan aka Jamaal.

3 turn state witnesses

The investigators said they had "established the conspirational participation" of the accused in the plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Although three servicemen—1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang Jr. and Lt. JG Kiram Sadava—were also named, the CIDG said they had volunteered to cooperate in the investigation and the prosecution of these cases.

They were recommended to be discharged as state witnesses and be covered by the Witness Protection Program.

Bombing campaign

According to the investigators, the group was behind at least 11 bomb attacks in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, starting with a bomb explosion in front of the Arroyo family-owned LTA Bldg. in Makati City last July 7.

They were also linked to attacks on vehicles owned by a son of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez.

Part of the plotters' alleged plan was to attack and control the Batasan Complex and force the congressmen to look into the election fraud, particularly the "Hello Garci" vote-rigging issue.

The complaint said the alleged coup plotters hoped an investigation into the scams "would cause the people to get out in the streets and force (the President) to resign and a Transitory Revolutionary Government would take over."

"The investigation does not end with the filing of charges against 49 individuals before the Department of Justice (DOJ)," Esmeralda said.

Esmeralda stressed that the non-filing of charges against Lacson and the others was not caused by a fear of repercussion from the Senate, the Roman Catholic Church and other concerned sectors.

"We felt we lacked sufficient evidence, that's all," Esmeralda said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 14, 2006
27th Week in Ordinary Time
Callixtus

1st Reading: Gal 3:22-29
Gospel: Luke 11:27-28

As Jesus was speaking, a woman spoke from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the one who bore you and nursed you!" Jesus replied, "Surely blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it as well."

Commentary

Sin is a reality: injustice, violence, evil, selfishness. The law condemned us, judged us in everything we did, but we live in Jesus the Christ of God and are justified by believing in Jesus—by living in Jesus' word. We are all one in communion, forgiven, forgiving and free. So we rejoice in that—but are we really living in that freedom as the children of God?

We want to cry out blessings on the woman who gave birth to Jesus, but he is intent on proclaiming: "More blessed still are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!" God is concerned with our hearing the Word and keeping it more than any devotion or praise. This is what we are being judged on now as believers in the Word of God in Jesus.

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Is it too late to automate '07 polls? Gordon says no, Abalos says yes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IS IT REALLY TOO late to automate, even partially, next year's senatorial and local elections?

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional, doesn't think so and yesterday chided Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos for saying there is no more time to implement the partial automation of the 2007 elections.

"It's his duty to implement the law. He has to make the preparations for the automation of next year's election," said Gordon.

The Senate approved on Thursday the bill authorizing the use of an Automated Election System in highly urbanized cities and two provinces each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for the 2007 elections of 12 senators and all local officials. The bill also provides for full, nationwide automation in the 2010 presidential elections.

But Abalos said it "might be too late" to implement the automation even on a pilot basis.

This got the ire of Gordon, who had exerted all efforts to get the Senate to vote on the measure on Thursday before it adjourned for a three-week recess.

"I know he (Abalos) is not interested in this because he is still trying to get his old computer machines to be used in the election," Gordon said.

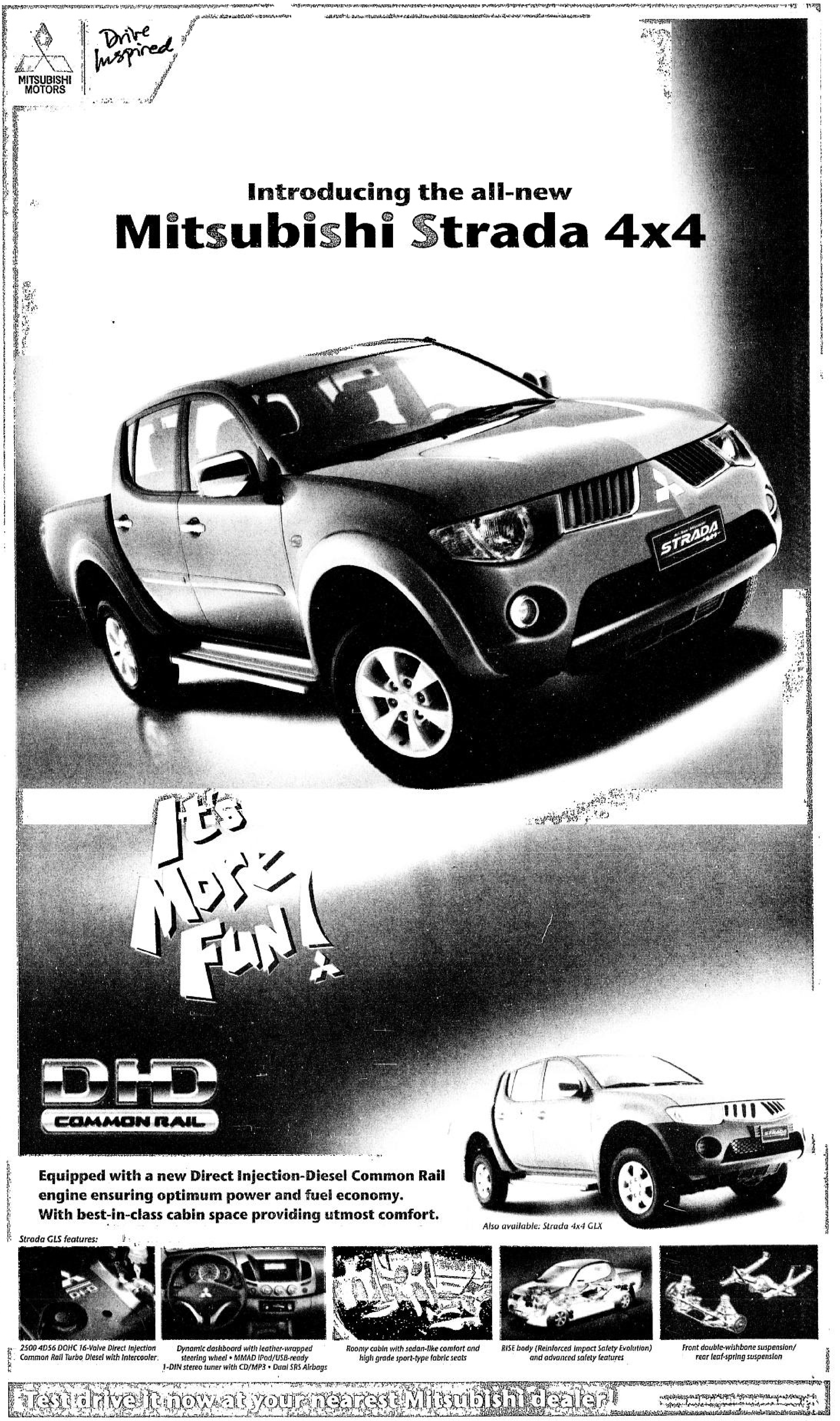
He was referring to the P1.3 billion automated computer machines supplied by Mega Pacific Consortium which the Supreme Court nullified in 2004. In nullifying the Mega Pacific deal, the SC ordered the Solicitor General to return the machines and recover the money paid to the consortium.

Gordon said that if Abalos is not enthusiastic about the automation, he should designate Commission Resurrecion Borra to take charge of the preparations for the 2007 elections. Congress could allocate the P1.2 billion needed for the partial automation, he added.

Gordon said the automation will become a law next month, as he expects smooth sailing of the measure in the bicameral conference committee which will reconcile the Senate and House versions.

"We can reconcile the measure very easily," Gordon said. He said he had already gotten in touch with his House counterpart Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., and they agreed to convene the bicam at the resumption of sessions on Nov. 6.

The Senate bill provides for automation in six pilot areas that will be identified by the Comelec or the nine-member Advisory Council, which will also choose the computers and technology to be used in these areas. The House version seeks to implement automation only in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, according to Gordon.



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WARRANTY

TACURONG, COTABATO BOMBINGS

Militiaman, saleswoman hailed as heroes

COTABATO CITY—A MEMBER OF A CIVILIAN volunteers organization and a saleswoman in a department store have been declared heroes for moving two bombs away from crowded areas on Tuesday and Wednesday at the risk of their lives.

On Thursday, Chief Supt. German Doria, Central Mindanao police director, said what 47-year-old militiaman Joel Bacugan of Tacurong City and the saleswoman of Cotabato City had done was extraordinary. (The woman's identity was not disclosed for her own protection.)

At around 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Bacugan, who is assigned at the Tacurong public market, was summoned by a stall owner and told about a box left by an unidentified man.

Mortar shells

Bacugan peeped into the box, became convinced that it contained an explosive, carried it away from the market and put it near the isolated public toilets.

The explosive went off seconds later, wounding four persons.

Doria, vice chair of the regional peace and order council, said that had it not been for Bacugan's quick action, the bomb fashioned out of mortar shells could have "maimed people and injured hundreds of others in the market."

"It was meant to kill as many people as possible," Doria said.

Bacugan was honored in a simple ceremony at the Sultan Kudarat Capitol grounds on Thursday.

"Because of his heroic deeds, he prevented what could have been the worst bomb attack in years in Central Mindanao," Doria told local officials after presenting Bacugan to Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon.

Timely response

Puno and Calderon visited a number of Mindanao cities to confer with officials in connection with terror threats from the Jemaah Islamiyah and its local allies.

In Cotabato City, Puno handed a cash incentive to the saleswoman in appreciation for her act of courage.

"If it were not for the vigilance and timely response of our new hero, there could have been numerous casualties," Mayor Muslimin Sema said.

At around noon on Wednesday, the woman picked up an improvised bomb left by a man near her store on Don Rufino Alonzo Street and threw it into a secluded area.

Citizens' involvement

Doria said the government needed more people like Bacugan and the woman in its antiterror campaign.

"This is the true example of effective peacekeeping—the involvement of citizens to curb terrorism and other crimes," Puno said.

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Datu Pakung Mangudadatu, who heads the Central Mindanao peace and order council, said Bacugan was a role model for the people of Sultan Kudarat and other areas as well.

Mangudadatu said that aside from a citation, Bacugan would also receive a cash award—"a small prize for what he did." *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Civilians to be armed vs terror

From page A1

tive villages and will serve as "the backbone of the local government's campaign for peace and order," Puno said.

They will be issued firearms only after undergoing military training, thus becoming a special militia unit to be supervised by the Armed Forces, he said.

The move is not without precedent. In the 1970s, the Marcos regime also armed civilians—called barangay self-defense units, or BSDUs—to help stamp out the Moro rebellion.

They became notorious for violating human rights and were blamed for worsening the rebellion.

But Puno said the government would formulate measures with the help of local government units to ensure that the CVOs would not become a tool for rights abuses.

Enhancing security

Mayor Muslimin Sema said the issuance of EO 465 would greatly enhance the city's security plan against terrorism.

The lack of military and police personnel is viewed as one of the reasons why terrorists have managed to infiltrate urban areas.

Three bomb explosions rocked Central Mindanao this week, killing six people and wounding dozens of others.

The attacks were blamed on the Jemaah Islamiyah and its purported allies in the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Even before the bombs went off, military and police officials had issued warnings about possible attacks by the Jemaah Islamiyah.

"We knew of the bombings beforehand, but this group is determined and the police alone cannot cover every nook and cranny of the region," said Chief Supt. German Doria, Central Mindanao police chief.

The bomb attacks have prompted officials of other urban areas in the region to beef up security for public activities.

Deployments, deferments

In Kidapawan City, Mayor Rodolfo Gantuangco said at least 150 militiamen had been deployed to help ward off possible terror attacks.

Kidapawan, less than 10 minutes away from Makilala town, one of the targets of Tuesday's bomb attacks, is celebrating its annual Fruit Festival.

In Koronadal City, Mayor Fernando Miguel has ordered village and church officials to defer fiesta celebrations and similar events tending to draw large crowds.

"This is just temporary, while we are on heightened alert. [Our aim] is to be able to prevent the loss of lives," Miguel said.

Oplan Ultimatum

In Sulu, the military said it was pushing deeper into the territories of the extremist Abu Sayyaf, which is believed to have been coddling Indonesian militants identified with the Jemaah Islamiyah.

The operation, dubbed Oplan Ultimatum, is now on its second month, with the military suffering more casualties than the Abu Sayyaf. Nearly a dozen soldiers have been killed and scores of others wounded since August.

On Wednesday, two more members of the Army's elite Scout Ranger Battalion were killed and nine others were wounded in a clash with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul town.

Maj. Eugene Batarra, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said the soldiers were patrolling Mt. Sinumaan at around 7 a.m. when they chanced upon the bandits under Radulan Sahiron.

The encounter led to "an undetermined number of casualties on the enemy side," Batarra said.

On Sunday evening, six members of the 7th Scout Rangers Company were also wounded in a clash with Abu Sayyaf bandits on Mt. Tunggol, also in Patikul.

Enemy camp

Batarra said that prior to the clash, the Scout Rangers discovered a camp on Mt. Bagsak at the triboundary of Talipao, Panamao and Patikul towns.

He said the camp had room for around 35 persons and could have been used to treat the wounded.

Soldiers found empty boxes of mortar and rifle ammunition, surgical blades, disposable syringes, empty gauze boxes and other medical paraphernalia, he said. *Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Nash B. Maulana and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

In Baguio, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

From page A1

during a press conference on Thursday that this was not a joke.

He said Korean entrepreneurs had offered to invest in snow-blowing machines that would be placed atop buildings here to produce snowflakes that would fall on downtown Baguio.

He said the plan was to operate the machines every afternoon during the Christmas season when tourists flock to the city.

"These Koreans have visited modern Asian cities where there are theme park-like activities. Hong Kong and Singapore have fireworks display every weekend to delight residents and tourists. This is something similar," Bautista said.

He said the Korean businessmen also proposed to convert any government facility located in an elevated area in the city into a resort that would offer snow-theme rides such as a snow slide.

"We thought of fixing up [the sequestered Diplomat Hotel] on Dominican Hill here, where they can construct pipe slides where people can slide down on ice and water," Bautista said.

While the proposals sounded absurd at first, he said, they could be feasible.

Coldest city

"Baguio remains the coldest city in the Philippines and it would take less energy to produce snow flakes here during the Christmas holidays when temperatures can reach as low as 12 degrees Celsius," Bautista said.

More importantly, the idea was fresh enough to attract the curious. "Baguio has nothing new to offer tourists anymore, and they're giving us a good idea," he said.

Bautista declined to identify the brains behind the proposal, although he said they were businessmen who set up groceries and schools here.

At least 6,000 Korean students and missionaries are staying in Baguio, according to the Bureau of Immigration. The number excludes Korean tourists who visit the city.

Bautista said the city's failure to keep tourists was best reflected by the latest competitiveness survey of mid-sized cities that saw Baguio in the bottom three in 2005.

Lagging behind

The survey was conducted by the Asian Institute of Management and the Saint Louis University's College of Business Administration. It compared Baguio to the cities of Angeles, Bacolod, Batangas, Butuan, Cabanatuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calamba, General Santos, Iligan, Iloilo, Lipa, San Fernando (Pampanga), Tarlac and Zamboanga.

Bacolod, Batangas, Iligan, Iloilo and San Fernando topped the survey.

In a report provided by the city government, Baguio "had a high cost of doing business, bad vehicular traffic, inefficient provision of basic utilities, insufficient banking institutions, a worsening environment and poor [local government] responsiveness [to] local development."

World-class toilet at PMA

The city government is gearing up for a major infrastructure boom before the end of the year, in part, to make up for the competitiveness survey, according to Bautista.

Part of the investment plan is the construction of a P1-million "world-class" toilet at Fort del Pilar, catering to guests of the Philippine Military Academy.

The PMA draws some of the prominent guests of the city, but the last tour here of the Miss Earth candidates embarrassed officials because the PMA could not offer them toilets.

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23 Oct Mon	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 and its IRR	Substantive and Procedural Law	9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	3	ACA Nimfa C. Vilches
	The Art of Direct and Cross-Examination	Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy	1:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	4	Prof. Theodore O. Te
24 Oct Tue	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics	Legal Ethics	9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	3	Justice Noel G. Tijam
	International Conventions Involving Migrant Workers	International Law	1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	2	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	The Preference of Labor Claims in Insolvency Proceedings	Substantive and Procedural Law	3:15 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.	3	Atty. Manuel G. Yngson
25 Oct Wed	Updates in Legal Ethics Jurisprudence	Legal Ethics	9:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.	3	Justice Hector L. Hofileña (ret.)
	Court-Referred and Court-Annexed Mediation	ADR	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	2	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar
	Alternative Dispute Resolution in Family Law Cases	ADR	3:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	3	Prof. Rowena E.V. Daroy Morales
26 Oct Thur	The Law on Successional Rights of Children	Substantive and Procedural Law	9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	3	Justice Ricardo C Puno, Sr. (ret.)
	Application of the New Rules on Pre-trial and Modes of Discovery	Pre-trial and Trial Skills	1:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	4	Judge Marissa M. Guillen
27 Oct Fri	Amendment and Revision of the Constitution	MCLE Prescribed Subject	9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	3	Justice Vicente V. Mendoza (ret.)
	Transnational Business Transactions: Joint Ventures and Consortiums	MCLE Prescribed Subject	1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	3	Atty. Rocky Alejandro L. Reyes

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CA rules partial retake of nursing exam

From page A1

that we have to wait for the final and conclusive report of the NBI, and this was also the basis of the CA decision," said Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff.

Defensor said the court's decision "strengthened and validated the Palace position that the decision will be fair to all concerned."

He said the public should now wait for the final administrative order to be issued by Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

The suit was filed against the PRC and the Board of Nursing (BON) by the UST College of Nursing's faculty association, the League of Concerned Nurses, the Binuklod na Samahan ng mga Student Nurses, the Presidential Task Force on National Licensure Examination for Nurses, and Dante Ang, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

On Aug. 18, the appellate court restrained the PRC and the BON from proceeding with the scheduled oath-taking of new nurses on Aug. 22. That temporary restraining order expires on Oct. 18.

Earlier this week, PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero said that of the 17,821 board passers, 6,000 had taken the oath and 2,000 among them had been issued licenses. The rest of the 6,000 were not able to obtain licenses because of the TRO.

Rosero, who is firmly against a retake of the controversial exam, also said the PRC would administer the oath to all board passers upon the expiration of the TRO.

Beyond judicial power

The appellate court conceded that the examinees who attended the final coaching sessions could have benefited from the leak. "But until they are identified, no adverse judgment can be rendered against them," it said, adding:

"Such a matter is beyond our judicial power to resolve."

The court left it to Malacañang to decide on who among the examinees should have their professional license revoked.

It said that "in the absence of a law," an official of the executive branch "must decide the question in conformity with justice, reason and equity in view of the circumstances of the case."

It also said the ruling was "without prejudice" to the revocation of the licenses issued to examinees who may eventually be identified as among those who attended the final coaching sessions at the three review centers.

The petition of Task Force NLEX (nursing licensure examination) for a general retake of Tests III and V "cannot be sustained," the court said.

It said the task force could have "misconstrued" the provisions of Republic Act No. 9173, or the Philippine Nursing Act.

While the law provides that an examinee who gets a failing mark in any subject must take an examination again in that subject, this "cannot however be inferentially applied considering the peculiar circumstances surrounding this case," the court said.

It added: "Having found, based on unrefuted evidence, that there was no widespread leakage, and [without] any preponderant evidence on who specifically benefited therefrom, a retake will be too drastic a pill for the examinees to absorb. Not only would it be costly for the government, it would be costlier for the examinees who hardly have the means [for a retake]."

Null and void

In its ruling, the court threw out the PRC formula for the recomputation of the test scores to correct the leakage.

It granted the petition of two nursing groups and the dean of the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing to declare PRC Resolution No. 31, Series of 2006, which provided for the recomputation, "null and void."

"A writ of prohibition is hereby issued permanently enjoining the respondents from implementing the resolution," the court said.

On Wednesday, the NBI said the cheating was confined to Luzon, involved the Gapuz, Inress and Pentagon review centers, and covered only Tests III and V.

On Thursday, it filed a complaint before the Department of Justice accusing 17 executives of the three review centers of violating provisions of RA 8981, or the PRC Modernization Act.

It cleared Rosero and other PRC officials of culpability and even complimented them for the recomputation that included invalidating the leaked questions in Test III and reducing the weight of the scores in Test V.

NBI's 'blatant bias'

But Dr. Gene Alzona Nisperos, secretary general of the Health Alliance for Democracy, protested the NBI's decision to clear the PRC of culpability.

"The NBI is in no position to exempt, much less laud, anyone, especially PRC officials, given the extent of the damage these people have wrought on the nursing profession," Nisperos said in a statement.

"The blatant bias of the NBI casts aspersions on the impartiality and validity of its investigation," he said.

Nisperos pointed out that the bureau itself had detected a pattern suggesting that cheating in the board exam was not a new phenomenon.

"If the leak has been going on for years, the NBI should have looked into the other licensure examinations being given by PRC. The leaks might not be limited to the nursing exam alone!" he said, adding that at the very least, the PRC should be held accountable by "complicity or sheer negligence."

Declining passing rate

Nisperos said the PRC had "turned a blind eye" on the declining passing rate in the licensure exams, which had been blamed on the poor training and education of examinees.

He noted the poor performance in the board exams as shown by the passing rate of 54 percent in 2001, 46 percent in 2002, 43 percent in 2003, 55.9 percent in 2004, and 49.7 percent in 2005.

"By being scandalously remiss in their basic responsibilities, the officials of the PRC, as well as those of the Commission on Higher Education, have committed a grave crime against the nursing students and the Filipino people," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra*

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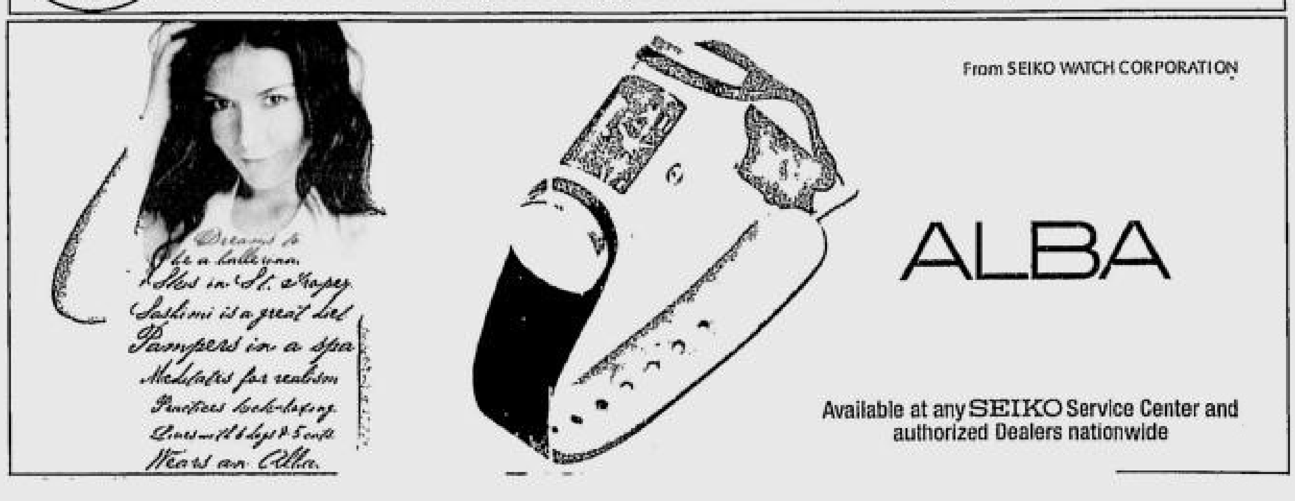

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Bangladeshi Grameen founder wins Nobel Peace

From page A1

Nobel Committee said in its citation.

"Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty. Microcredit is one such means. Development from below also serves to advance democracy and human rights," the committee added.

Yunus and Grameen were surprise picks for the 10 million Swedish crown ($1.36 million) award from a field of 191 candidates. The prize will be handed out in Oslo on Dec. 10.

"This is the last prize. That's what's so special about it ... it's the sky," Yunus told Norwegian television.

In 1984, Yunus received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award—touted as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize—for Community Leadership. In 2001, Yunus won the grand prize of the 12th Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes, along with Filipino filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya, for Poverty Eradication.

How it began

Returning from a Fulbright scholarship in the United States, Yunus was shaken by the 1974 Bangladesh famine and headed out into the villages to see what he could do.

He discovered the region's women were in severe debt to extortionate moneylenders. Yunus' initial goal was simply to persuade a local bank manager to give villagers regular credit, which the banker said was impossible without a guarantee.

Yunus set out to prove him wrong and never looked back.

Grameen—the word means "village" or "rural" in the Bangla language—has lent $5.72 billion since it began. Of this, $5.07 billion has been repaid, a recovery rate of 98.85 percent.

Beggars, too

The bank, which has turned a profit in all but three years, lends to 6.6 million people, 96 percent of them women, and has not received donor money in eight years. It counts beggars among its members, giving them interest-free loans and life insurance.

Today the bank is owned by the rural poor it serves, with 94 percent owned by borrowers and the rest by the government.

"In Bangladesh, where nothing works and there's no electricity," Yunus once said, "microcredit works like clockwork."

Yunus said he was looking forward to visiting Oslo to receive the prize.

"Definitely, I'm going to come," he said. He and the bank will share in the prize as well as a gold medal and diploma.

Grameen Bank has been instrumental in helping millions of poor Bangladeshis, many of them women, improve their standard of living by letting them borrow small sums to start businesses.

Loans go toward buying items such as cows to start a dairy, chickens for an egg business, or mobile phones to start businesses where villagers who have no access to phones pay a small fee to make calls.

Reached by the Nobel foundation, Yunus was excited about winning the prize.

"I'm absolutely delighted. I cannot believe that it has really happened," he said through telephone. "Everyone was telling me that I would get the prize but it came as a surprise. It is fantastic news for the people that have supported us."

Yunus has drawn praise for developing and advancing microcredit, not just in Bangladesh, but across Asia, Africa and into the Middle East, which has been credited with helping poor women to advance their lives and pull them out of poverty.

What's microcredit?

Microcredit is the extension of unusually small loans, typically $50-$100, to entrepreneurs too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. Though the sums are tiny by Western comparisons, the amounts are vital to those who borrow.

The process works in that the bank uses what it calls solidarity groups, made up of people who band together to apply for the loans. The members are co-guarantors and work with each other.

The Grameen Foundation was founded in 1997 and now has a worldwide network of 52 partners in 22 countries that help some 11 million people across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas.

Ole Danbolt Mjoes, committee chair, told The Associated Press that Yunus' efforts have had visible results.

"We are saying microcredit is an important contribution that cannot fix everything, but is a big help," Mjoes said, adding that Yunus is a "smart guy. He is creative. His head is in the right place."

The UN aims to halve the share of the world's population living in the deepest poverty, some 1 billion people, by 2015.

"We want to send a signal to the whole world that the fight against poverty is one of the most important things we are doing," Mjoes said.

Women main beneficiaries

Mjoes recounted that Yunus himself lent $27, divided among 42 people, in 1976, to help them buy weaving stools.

"Then they got the weaving stools quickly, they started to weave quickly and they repaid him quickly," he said.

Last year, the United Nations said that women, in particular, were the major benefactors of microcredit.

More than 92 million families benefited from microcredit in 2005, up from 13.5 million families in 1997, according to a report released by the Microcredit Summit Campaign.

The campaign was launched 10 years ago by United Nations delegates from 137 countries. It aims to extend microcredit to 100 million of the world's poorest families. Last year, the UN even designated 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit.

By the end of 2004, small loans had been given to 66.6 million people who were in the bottom half of those living below their nation's poverty line, according to the report. Nearly 84 percent—or 55.6 million—of those recipients were women, it said.

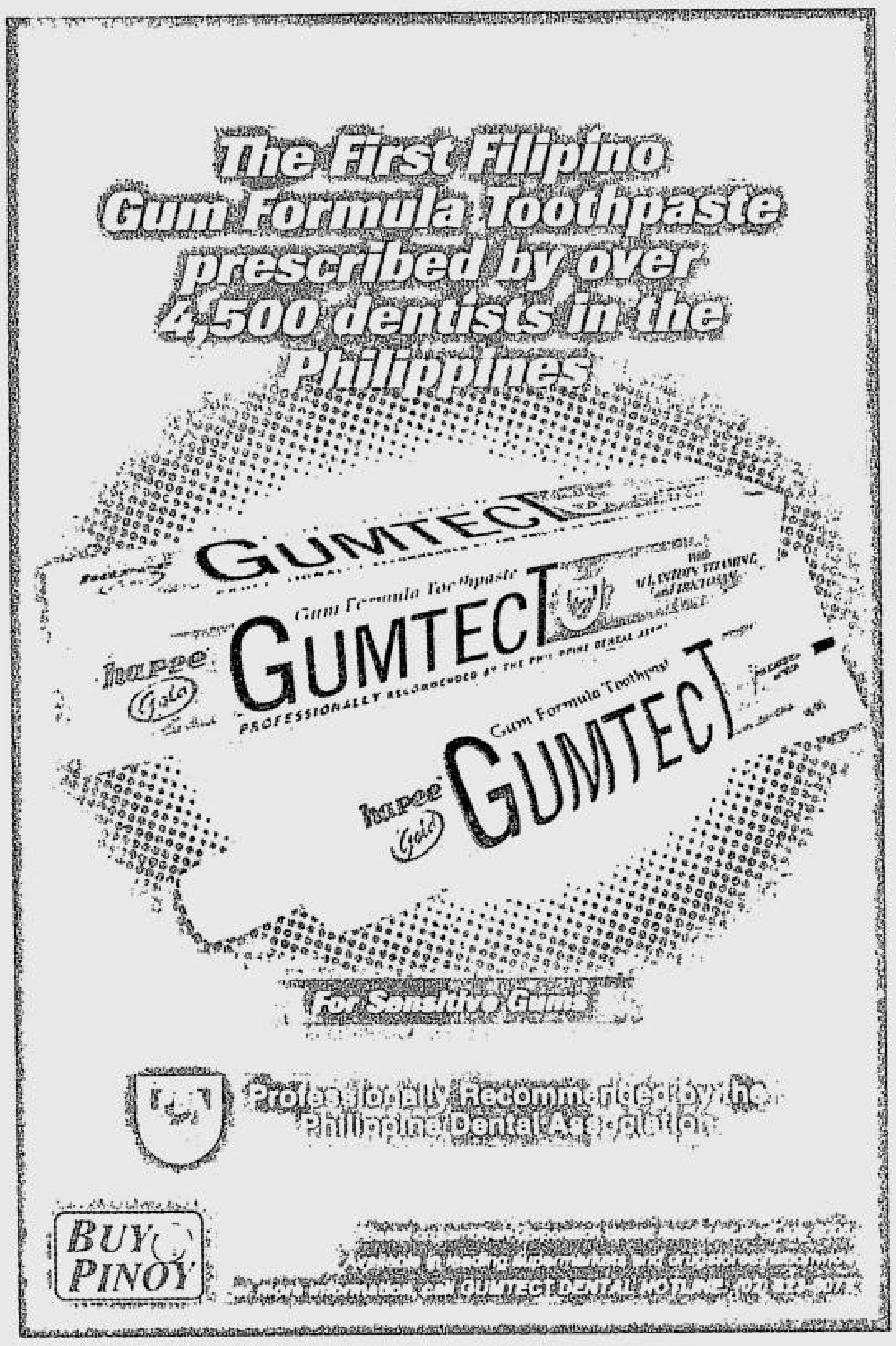
Elevating millions

Indeed, the Microcredit Summit Campaign has said it hopes to provide microcredit to 175 million families, and elevate another 100 million families above a daily subsistence level of $1 by 2015 using microcredit.

In its citation, the committee noted that "economic growth and political democracy cannot achieve their full potential unless the female half of humanity participates on an equal footing with the male," the committee said.

The peace prize was the sixth and last Nobel prize announced this year. The others, for physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and economics, were announced in Stockholm, Sweden.

Reuters, AP



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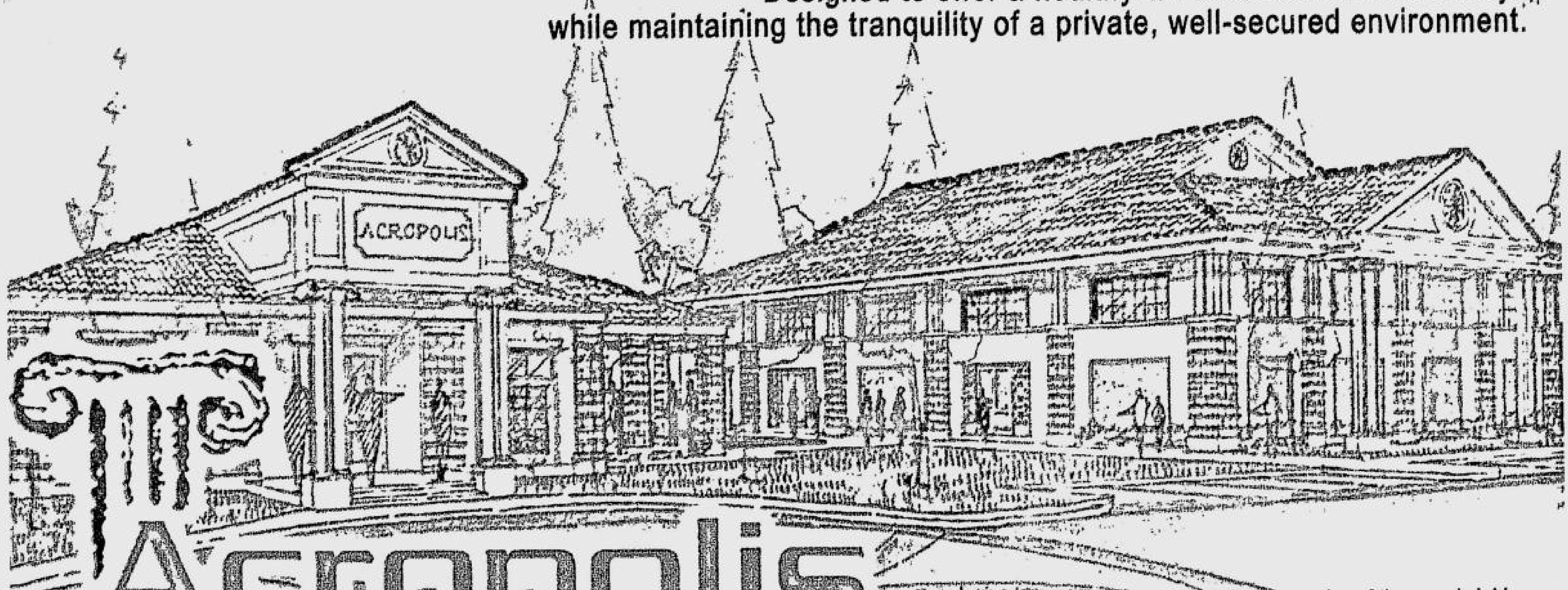

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Probers of price manipulation rush to stop power rate increase

From page A1

tion between power suppliers would enable buyers to choose the best prices and thus bring down the cost of electricity, opened only last June.

Biggest beneficiary

In Congress where a joint congressional power commission (Powercom) opened a probe into the WESM price manipulation scandal last Thursday, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said that if necessary, the commission would order the WESM operations closed to stop the anticipated increase in electricity rates in December.

"If it becomes necessary, we might order a halt to the commercial operations [of the WESM]," said Santiago who cochairs the bicameral body.

Favila said Meralco was the biggest beneficiary of the alleged price manipulation in the WESM as nearly half of the rates that Meralco charges consumers are based on the prices in the electricity bourse.

Favila said he was informed by Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla that 48 percent of consumer electricity rates were based on prevailing WESM rates.

Collusion

The President ordered the probe into allegations of price manipulation at the WESM widened after one of her economic advisers, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, accused Meralco and two state energy agencies—the National Power Corp. and the Power Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.—of colluding to push up prices in the electricity spot market.

The Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), which operates the electricity bourse, announced last week that it was investigating PSALM which it suspected of using its 50-percent control of the country's total generating capacity to push prices up.

PSALM, the agency tasked with selling off Napocor's power plants and the electricity grid, is the single biggest player in the WESM.

Meralco, which is run by the Lopez Group, has denied allegations of price-rigging, saying it was in no position to fix prices as it was just a buyer in the spot market and a distributor that merely passes on the price of the power it buys there to consumers.

It claimed that the two independent power producers—the Lopez Group-owned First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Phil.—where it buys the rest of its power requirements have not made any bids in the WESM.

PEMC president Lasse Holopainen has said that based on market data, there was no evidence of manipulation on the buyers' side. He said the PEMC investigation was still limited to PSALM.

Nothing unusual

But Salceda, an economist, pointed out that an artificial boost in spot market prices would automatically increase the price at which Meralco buys electricity from its own IPPs.

He said there was no unusual event in the past three months that would explain the 75-percent jump in spot prices except for the possible collusion of the big players.

The PEMC said the average price of power in the WESM's third month of operation was P4.853 per kilowatt hour, nearly 75 percent higher than the P2.788 that prevailed in its first month of operation.

Favila said he was picked by the President to head the presidential investigation team because of his experience as president of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"I conducted surveillance of similar manipulative practices [at the PSE]," he said.

Internal audit

The two other members of the team are Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Teves, who chairs PSALM, has ordered an internal audit of the agency to determine whether the spikes in electricity spot prices were justifiable.

"The PSALM should make a bid in the market with the interest of consumers also on its mind. You must have a situation where it's good for the country and good for the company. These are serious allegations but I can't make any conclusions yet," Teves said.

He said the charges of price manipulation, if not resolved satisfactorily, would adversely affect the government's bid to privatize billions in pesos worth of state-owned power generation and transmission facilities.

"It all depends on how we address the issue. If there are questions on the integrity of the system, we have to be concerned about it," said Teves.

Santiago said it remains to be seen whether the price spikes in the WESM were a result of price manipulation or "merely part of the learning curve of the market."

"It is possible that the government agencies might have lost a lot of money in the first two months of the market, and that is why they tried to increase their prices on the third month," Santiago said.

She said it was possible that PSALM and Napocor bid low during the first two months so that their power plants could be dispatched, incurring big losses in the process.

"So in compensation, they might have tried to increase their price offer on the third month, thus causing the spike in prices," she said.

All suspects

Santiago said PSALM, Napocor, the PEMC and the Energy Regulatory Commission were "all suspects" in the price manipulation.

She said the PEMC should be included in the probe because it leaked its investigation of PSALM to media.

"This should have been kept quiet until the findings were conclusive," Santiago said.

As for the ERC, Santiago said it was suspect because it has not completed the competition rules for the WESM which have been left pending for three years.

From Cebu province where she inaugurated the P74-million Danao City bus terminal and public market, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured the public that "no stone would be left unturned in the investigation of the alleged price manipulation in the electricity market."

She said the government was "at the forefront of protecting the interest and welfare of the public especially when it comes to electricity as the people deserve no less than the maximum benefits of a free market."

Most damaging

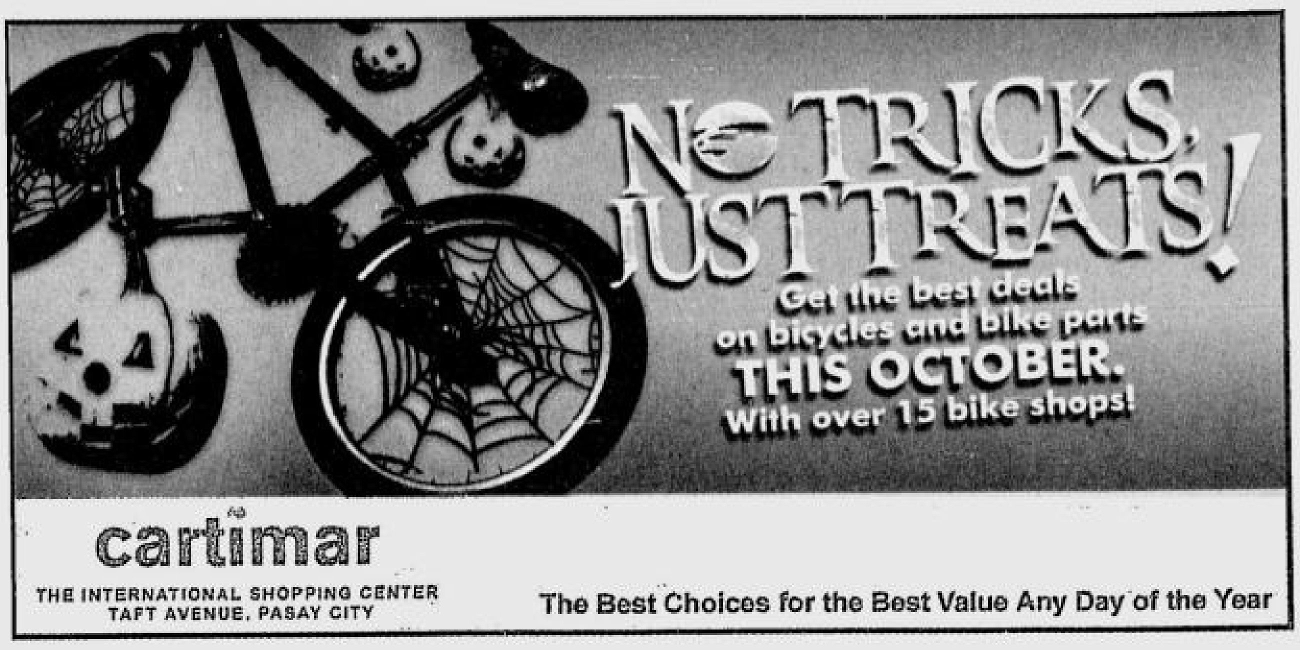
Sen. Joker Arroyo said "the President must frontally address the power sector problem in its entirety because this is the single most damaging economic drag of her administration."

Arroyo said the WESM issue was "just a symptom, not the problem." The problems of the power sector can be directly traced to Napocor, he said.

Arroyo said the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 was enacted to reduce power rates and the debt obligations of Napocor and its related agencies.

But five years after, power rates have not been reduced and the debts of Napocor have further increased, he said.

PSALM should have sold not less than 40 percent of Napocor's generating plants but only less than 1 percent have been sold, Arroyo said. *With a report from Abigail L. Ho in Manila, and Jolene R. Bulambot, Inquirer Visayas*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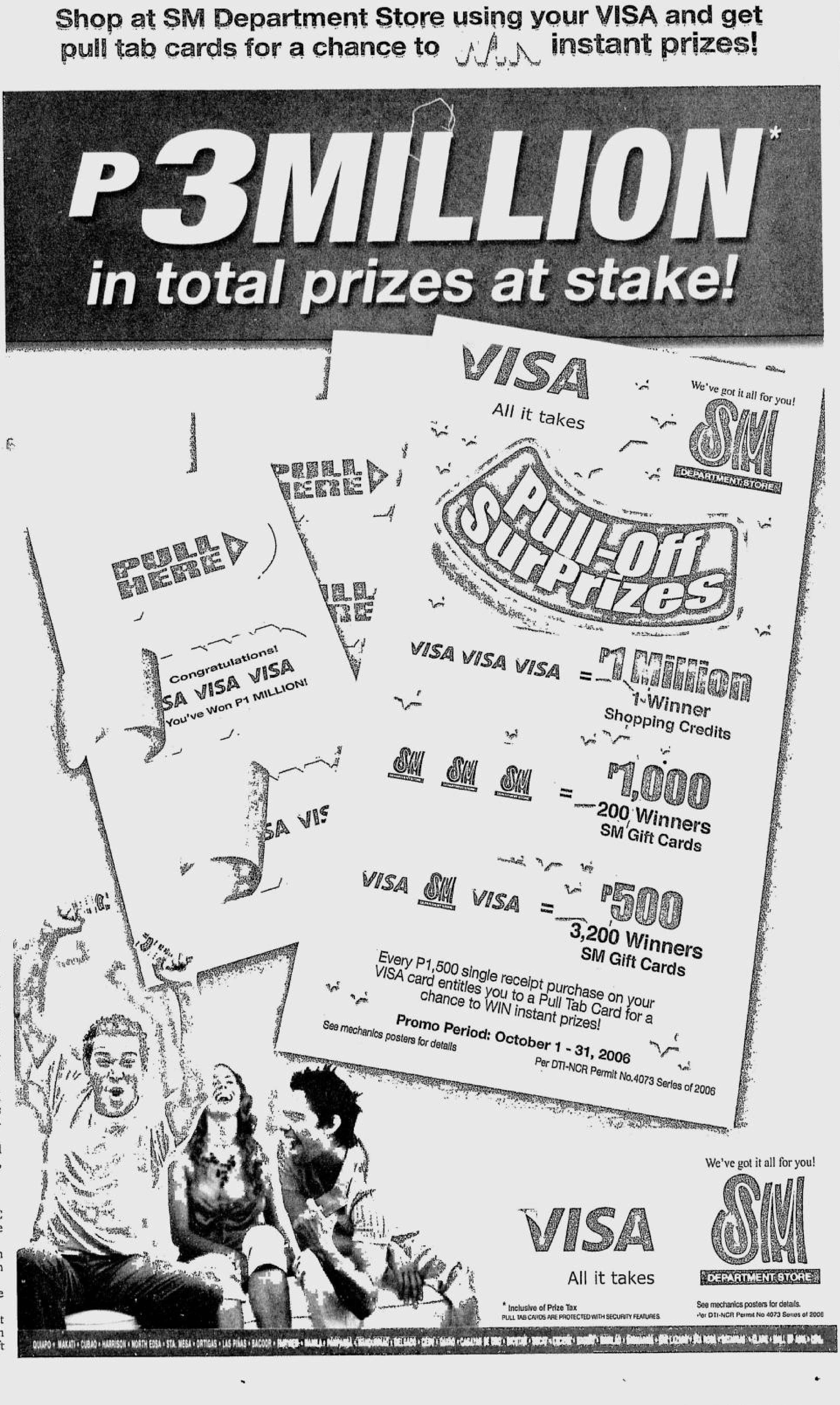
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OPINION

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Deputy president

EDITORIAL

WHEN THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY was created during the Commonwealth, the press took to calling Jorge Vargas, the first to hold the portfolio, the "little president." That was due to Vargas' short stature and vast bureaucratic influence. By nature a loyal and efficient man, Vargas defined the position as one of trust though not of any power independent of the president. Just how totally an executive secretary depended on a president was proven by the Japanese, who confused Vargas' behind-the-scenes effectiveness with genuine political power. Placing Vargas in charge of the initial Japanese occupation government, the Japanese quickly discovered that they needed a politician, and not a bureaucrat, to command respect from the people. They finally settled on Jose P. Laurel to head the puppet republic.

In his time, Vargas handled the press, conducting a daily noontime briefing. President Manuel Roxas placed press matters in the hands of press handlers and President Ramon Magsaysay institutionalized it by giving his press secretary a seat in the Cabinet. That division of labor has survived pretty much intact in every subsequent administration. President Ferdinand Marcos, always alert to any empire-building within his administration, for a time abolished the position of executive secretary, and divided up the functions of the press secretary.

However, since 1986, every administration has had both as members of the Cabinet. Ignorant of the fact that the position of executive secretary in the Philippine Cabinet predates that of the chief of staff in the American one (it was established by Eisenhower in the 1950s), President Joseph Estrada made a muddle of things by briefly instituting the Office of the Presidential Chief of Staff, even as he proved incapable of mediating the fight between his executive secretary and the head of his presidential management staff. President Macapagal-Arroyo reestablished the Office of the Chief of Staff as a kind of shield while muddling through a series of executive secretaries until she came up with the present one, Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita represents a particular tradition among executive secretaries, that of the military technocrat as exemplified by one of Marcos' ablest appointees to the position, Alejandro Melchor Jr. For a time, Melchor enjoyed a level of confidence unmatched since the time of Vargas; it was then that the practice of the executive secretary signing executive issuances in the name of the president, was established (not to be restored until the present administration). Marcos, however, grew suspicious of Melchor and abolished his position, relying on "assistants to the president" thereafter.

In recent months, Executive Secretary Ermita has adopted an increasingly high-profile, and even aggressive, posture in the Palace. He has taken to contradicting the presidential chief of staff, Michael Defensor, on all sorts of questions ranging from appointments to the administration's political plans. While this kind of bureaucratic infighting is neither new nor surprising, what is different is the tone—Ermita, most memorably in the case of Defensor's assertion that a senatorial slate was being put together, bluntly said his Cabinet colleague was lying.

Is the Little President merely getting too big for his britches? There is more to the Cabinet-level contradictions than meets the eye. Ermita represents the old guard of the Lakas-CMD and he is, himself, a political and military figure of long standing. Defensor belongs to the President's faction of the now-split Liberal Party and, in turn, belongs to a separate political coalition that is in alliance with Lakas; but he represents a separate power base: just as the President's personal party, Kampi, also does.

And since the tentacles of the presidency reach into every aspect of governance, the composition of the administration's coalition necessarily affects not only the Cabinet, but the House of Representatives and local governments, too. In all these, the President's party mates in Kampi and followers in the LP, are impatient over the stranglehold Lakas has had on positions of influence. It is Ermita's role to keep such uppity notions in their place—subordinate to his party's dominance.

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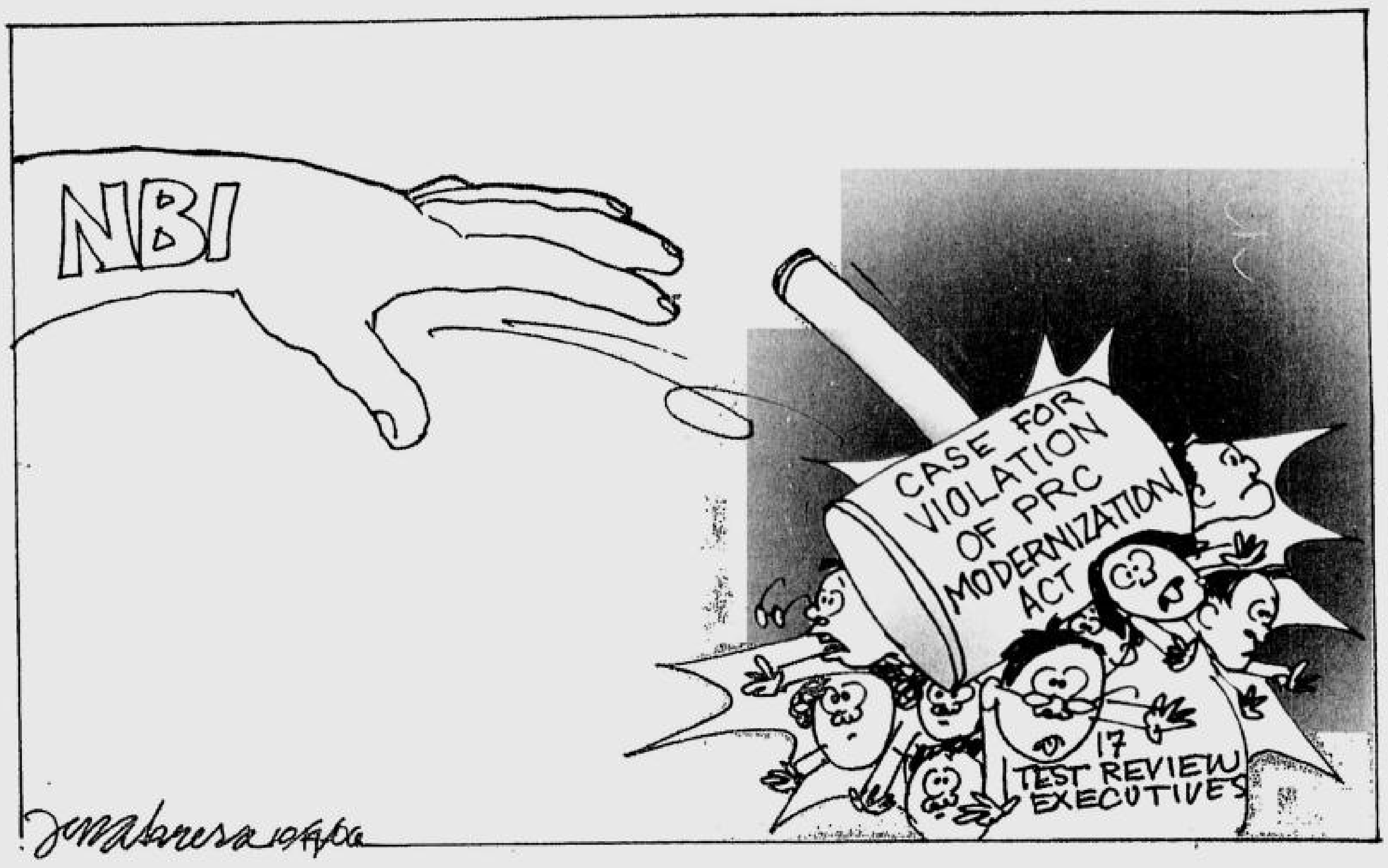
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The insolent airplanes are back

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LAST MONTH I WAS DELIGHTED TO REPORT in this column that a problem that had bedeviled us for years in Merville Park had finally been solved. The oppressive rumble caused by the intrusive airplanes flying directly over our community had stopped. We had not noticed the silence at first because we had gotten used to the noise pollution that had become part of our violated environment. That made our discovery of our unexpected relief doubly welcome.

On the day that article was published, the family of the late Semito Alparce, whom I had especially thanked for leading our anti-noise campaign, came to our house to express their gratitude for remembering my departed friend who had passed away before his protests could be won. Even their relatives from Bicol who had read this column called them up to share in our jubilation. ("Jubilation" is the exact word and not an exaggeration for that is exactly what we felt on that ecstatic morning.)

I frankly did not know who had caused the noise to stop for there were many who had sympathized with us and offered whatever help they could give to ease our difficulties. Even some public officials did their best, particularly from the Senate.

Among them were Senators Joker P. Arroyo, Loren Legarda, Manuel Villar, Juan Ponce Enrile, Sergio Osmeña III and Alfredo Lim. Our two congressmen offered only token assistance and the local officials not even verbal support. The executive officials, particularly from the Air Transportation Office in the Department of Transportation and Communications, were obviously partial to the abusive airlines that were permitted to commit violations of their commitment to observe the several requirements and limitations on their airplanes flying over Merville. Presidents Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo were indifferent to our complaints, probably considering them too trivial for their attention.

I especially appreciated the letters I received from our neighboring villages pledging their support for our campaign against the offensive airlines. Some lawyers even promised jurisprudential research should we decide to sue for the protection of the airspace above us as part of our property rights. There are in fact many foreign decisions we can cite in our favor, in addition to laws enforced in other countries prohibiting or at least limiting the noise caused by commercial airplanes. But to be truthful, we felt that legal action, besides being frightfully expensive, might be like tilting at windmills against the powerful resources of the offending airlines.

But this is not the end of the story. And there is no happy ending either.

As I related in my column of Sept. 3, I became aware of the unaccustomed silence several days earlier. It was an ordinary day when the noise of the impudent airplanes would disturb the quiet of our village, rouse us from much-needed sleep, intrude into our conversations and telephone calls, disturb the classes in our schools, and otherwise mar the former tranquility of our community. I waited resignedly for the usual noise but it did not come. I waited some more but the silence remained unbroken. That was when I decided I was not just imagining things and that, indeed, the noisy airplanes were gone.

But not for long, as I was to realize later. When I returned home that morning from the bar examinations in Political Law and International Law, the first thing I heard upon reaching Merville was the roar of a returning airplane. It was the first of many airplanes coming back to disturb us that belied the happy report I was making in this column that very same day. Many readers who were reading it that morning must have been wondering what I was talking about. I received a number of telephone calls from friends who probably wanted to check if I was already awake.

And so we are back to the same problem that began for us as far back as 1998. It has continued for all these past eight years except for that short interval when we received a sort of reprieve we could hardly savor. The noisy airplanes are back and in fact more abusive than before. They fly at all hours of the day and night, dismissive of their permitted schedule only from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. When I was awakened sometime ago by an insolent airplane, it was 5 minutes to midnight. One morning last week, my friend Leonie Asa called me up but several airplanes drowned our conversation. Merville Park is deafened again by the intolerable noise only the government cannot hear.

I understand the reason for our all too brief relief from the insolent airplanes was their temporary transfer to another runway while their usual runway was being repaired. If that is true, why don't they just remain permanently in that second runway instead of returning to the first runway that has been causing us all this oppression?

WE ARE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS ENTITLED TO THE RELIEF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT GIVE US. WHY IS IT FAVORING THE WEALTHY AIRLINES OVER ORDINARY TAXPAYERS LIKE US?

Incredible logic

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IF GENERAL OUTRAGE MET THE DECISION of the Ombudsman, which held that no Comelec personnel was criminally liable for the P1.3-billion contract that the Supreme Court had declared illegal and void, the reaction to the decision of Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Alex E. Ruiz, which acquitted Lucio Tan et al. in a P25-billion tax fraud case, can be characterized as muted. Why this is so (former BIR Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, who initiated the case way back in 1993, tells me that she was interviewed only by ANC—no calls from radio), I will leave to others to analyze.

The Ruiz decision is extremely well-written—its command of the English language would put some of the Supreme Court decisions to shame, as far as articulation and grammar are concerned, so much so that one wonders how come Ruiz is still a Metropolitan Trial Court judge and has not risen in the judicial ranks. But his reasoning and, therefore, his conclusions, are about the same quality as those which characterized the Ombudsman's decision—they stretch credulity to the breaking point.

Setting aside the legalese, the government claimed that Tan and his Fortune Tobacco Corporation (FTC) had defrauded the government of P25 billion in taxes (including interest and penalties). How? By selling their cigarettes at ridiculously low "Manufacturers Registered Wholesale Price." (When I wrote about this 13 years ago, I pointed out that although labor costs and cigarette retail prices had gone up, the MRWP hardly moved, which meant that FTC was allowing its profit per unit to decrease, while presumably the middlemen were reaping financial bonanzas.) And since by law the MRWP was the basis of FTC's tax liabilities, the government's tax take was made correspondingly low. The fraud came about because, the government (through then BIR head Chato) claimed, the middlemen—nine "exclusive" marketing corporations and more than 2,000 individuals—were used as dummies or were non-existent.

What proof did the government have to buttress this claim? Insofar as the nine corporations were concerned, the government produced evidence to the effect that: eight of the nine corporations were incorporated at around the same time; their articles of incorporation were notarized by the same notary public; seven out of nine corporations had the same auditor, who was also the external auditor of FTC; they held office at buildings owned by Tan; all sales invoices of these corporations were identically printed as to format and registered in Makati, Metro Manila despite the fact that their bases of operation were in the provinces; all corporations did not have visible, tangible assets—this indicating that they were not going concerns and were not actually conducting business operations; neither did their stockholders show any visible assets consistent with conducting business involving millions of pesos; all corporations did not appear to have any personnel or workforce at their registered addresses; all corporations had their alphabetically arranged list of customers and their official receipts chronology showed that these customers also made their purchases in alphabetical order; and the corporations had interlocking directors/officers.

Insofar as the more than 2,000 persons/buyers were concerned, the bases of the government's claim that they were fictitious are as follows: Not one of them is registered with the BIR, or has a Tax Identification Number (TIN), or appears in telephone directories, or has middle initials; or has acknowledged receipt of goods, despite the volumes and values involved; and their addresses are not available. The FTC list just has general directions; each of them transacted business with FTC only once and never came back to reorder; plus the fact that the barangay captains and/or municipal treasurers in the areas involved issued certifications that these persons were non-existent. The government documents also pointed out that if these buyers were first-timers or one-timers, the transactions between them and FTC would have had to be in cash, and they would have had to pick up the merchandise on their own. Which means that they had to carry on their persons an average of P4-6 million. Not only that: if they were the ones who picked up their orders, they would have used their own trucks or delivery equipment. So how come the FTC spent close to P110 million in the period under consideration (1992) for gas, oil and freight and delivery?

To the lay person, it would seem that all the above would be clear evidence that Tan's FTC was indeed using dummies. The dictionary defines a dummy as a person or agency secretly in the service of another—to cheat the government of its rightful sales (not to mention income) taxes.

But Judge Ruiz, in effect, pooh-poohed the government claims. With respect to the corporations, he pointed out that there was no evidence that Tan and cohorts had even a single share in any of the nine corporations—so how could there be a connection between him and them? To him, the link had to be overt, which essentially means that he does not accept the concept of a dummy. Duh? He also swept away the evidence that the more than 2,000 individuals were fictitious by the simple expedient of labeling them "hearsay." Hello?

They say bad news come in threes. Let us hope that the maxim does not apply to bad judicial decisions as well.

The religious box

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

GILDA CORDERO FERNANDO WROTE, "THE shape of the majority of institutions around us is square. They fit very well in boxes.... They're religious, government, corporate, bank, academe, painting, writing, fashion design. It's the box people who run our lives."

Implied is that a lot of people stay in the box or are kept in by institutions. Also implied is that the box hampers full growth and that some indoctrination has been perpetuated by the institutions.

Let's take a look at the religious box. For many, it's none of the above. It's the repository of all truth, morality and rules for an upright and holy life. With a couple of cushions thrown in, it's the safest place to be in. No discomfort there; no questioning; no desire to venture out.

But for as many, the box can be constricting. It is lined by slogans and watchwords to believe in and live by. Let's trace a journey of life in the box.

In childhood, we were promised with "the joys of heaven" but also told of the "fires of hell." "When you commit a mortal sin, your heart is black (properly illustrated in our prayer books) and your guardian angel is weeping (also illustrated). You'll go straight to hell." How many sins we invented, listed and confessed: "the host touched my teeth"; "I swallowed water after midnight"; "I looked at a kissing scene in the movies, but I tried to resist it." As soon as we entered "the age of reason," the Ten Commandments and the rules of the Church were to be taken seriously "under pain of sin."

Into adolescence and the "sins of the flesh," we were told of people "living in sin," and no longer "vessels of purity." Sex was never mentioned but that is what much of the anxiety was about. Moral dogmatism was upon us: black or white, right or wrong, good or bad—no in-betweens, no ifs ands or buts. One size fitted all. A series of don'ts ran our lives. What was allowed? The "chaste kiss"; a distance of one foot between partners dancing the slow drag. The "cross of life," guilt and sacrifice entered our vocabulary and lodged in our psyche.

That as young people we managed to have fun and fall in love was the miracle of youth—and, perhaps, the repudiation of the lengths taken by the "guardians of morality." Hand in hand with this somewhat puritanical upbringing was one of the happiest chapters of our youth. "Catholic Action was our cry," and we were committed to "defend the Church" without question.

With such zeal, we slipped into adulthood, taking for granted that "the priest can do no wrong" and that we must always "support the priest." It was easy for "pay, pray and obey" to establish itself.

But all in all, we didn't mind. We were quite content in the "embrace of the Church," guide, above all—and protector, too.

In fact, we never even thought we were in a box until we found ourselves straining for adult and authentic faith. We had outgrown childhood and would no longer be led like children.

Almost imperceptibly, like a fait accompli, we began walking out of the box as we felt that the Church, in turns, was unyielding, late, or inadequate; or seemed unable to handle or match the escalating complexity of life and of the world on several fronts. Vatican II with its aggiornamento had tried to open the box and engage the world but so shaken was the status quo that conservative forces in the Church pulled back.

Many also trekked out, seeking deeper faith encounters and modes of prayer enriched by still untapped spiritualities.

But what pushed us consciously out of the box was putting the mind on hold, which the Church seemed to prefer—what with its penchant for cover-up, silence and its inquisitorial disposition. To paraphrase Shylock, do we not have brains? And to recall Aquinas, is not our intellect the superior faculty of man?

We chafed over the absence of discussion in the "Institutional Church," widely observed to be allergic to intellectual discussions and not exactly warm to dialogue. We felt gagged. Heartbreaking was it to see and read about priests and theologians marginalized, silenced or isolated. What a great loss to the Church. So obsessed seemed the Church with uniformity rather than the buoyancy of "unity in diversity." By this time, several of the slogans had become hollow or even questionable platitudes.

Inside the box, seeking any clarification on the what's and why's of certain Church teachings was so forbidding, it became an act of bravery to do so. Routinely met like heresy or attack, such honest inquiries were automatically dismissed as "temptations against faith." Inside the box, we could not, for example, ask why no denunciation for a clear attempt of bribery on the eve of the July meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines came from the collegial bishops.

Inside the box it's usually hush-hush. Where then to go? Little choice but outside where the air is freer.

Jesus broke out of the box fashioned by the scribes and Pharisees. Surely he didn't create another box to put us in. Something about the Institutional Church did that. How much there is to preserve in the box, but how much there is to discover outside.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com : fax 8210659

A life in ballet

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MY FRIEND, AND CLASSMATE SINCE GRADE school in Maryknoll, Edna Vida, once told me about the irony of growing older as a dancer. Explaining why she and husband premier danseur Nonoy Froilan had retired as performers, Edna reflected: "As you grow older, you realize how much your artistry has grown and deepened. You know the roles better, you understand the emotions involved, you develop new approaches and interpretations. Sadly, that is also the time your body begins to betray you."

Edna's reflections occurred to me while watching Lisa Macuja perform on the opening weekend of "Halo-halo@20," marking her 20th year as a Philippine-based ballerina. Twenty years ago, fresh from her studies in the famed Leningrad Choreographic School and a two-year stint as a member of the legendary Kirov Ballet (the first foreigner to be so named), Lisa made the fateful decision to base herself in the Philippines, dance with local dance companies even as she performed with foreign dance troupes. Later, she would found her own dance company, Ballet Manila, which would establish itself as the country's repository of the classical ballet tradition, turning out young soloists and a corps of dancers trained in the demanding Vaganova method.

* * *

IN LISA'S book "Ballerina of the People," co-edited by Angie Blardony Ureta and Susan A. de Guzman and launched right after the "Halo-halo" gala, Lisa's teacher in Leningrad Tatiana Alexandrovna Udalenkova remarked: "Filipinos should understand that you are very lucky to have her. And the best way to show your appreciation is to watch her performances more because she will not always be there and you would have missed so much because there may not be another one like her in this generation."

"TA's" observation could not have been more apropos than during Lisa's 20th anniversary performance. Watching her embody the fiery and feisty Kitri in "Don Quixote," her favorite and signature role, one couldn't help wondering how Lisa, at 42, could still put her body through the grueling demands of one of the most exacting and exciting of ballets.

Arguably, Lisa is still hitting her prime as a prima ballerina. The successive fouettés, the breathtaking grand jetés (what my daughter calls the "Kitri jumps"), the rapid chaînés are all there. Even better, she is much more confident, both of herself and her partners, and her interpretation of the various doomed maidens that populate the world of ballet has grown in complexity and depth.

In her book, Lisa mildly complained that early in her dancing career, she was characterized as a "technician" who could execute steps meticulously, even flawlessly, but lacked the grace and frailty for lyrical roles. Well, she has since proven the critics wrong, and while she continues to dance and dance brilliantly, she has also given lie to Edna Vida's sad musing. Undoubtedly, Lisa has grown in maturity as an artist. Even better, her body has not begun to betray her—at least not yet.

* * *

STILL, even if she protests that retirement is far from her mind, Lisa has a most fitting testimonial to her life in ballet.

"Ballerina of the People" is a personal memoir of one Filipina's journey to Russia, where she proved her mettle and talent against the world's best teachers, coaches and dancers. It also tells the story of that Filipina's journey home, where she learned painful, bitter lessons about hometown rivalries and petty one-upmanship; and where she found a new calling, as a "missionary" of ballet, unearthing the hidden audience for this classical, Western dance form, and spreading the word about its wonders and artistry.

Beyond the memoirs, though, is a book chock-full of lessons for the budding ballerina. Lisa writes that when she started ballet lessons at St. Theresa's, her teachers didn't seem to have much to work with. She didn't have the body type that makes for the "ideal" ballerina proportions. She was sturdy rather than fragile. She had short legs.

But what Lisa had was an innate drive, a determination to be the best in whatever field she entered, and a competitive spirit. And it was these—spirit, spunk, energy and an appetite for hard work—rather than her natural gifts, that propelled Lisa to where she is now. This is a lesson every young ballet student needs to learn: that natural gifts—a beautiful arch, a natural turn-out—can only take you so far. But without grit and a willingness to sacrifice and endure years of pain and painstaking practice, the highest reaches of ballet artistry will elude you.

* * *

ONE ballerina in her autobiography once wrote that "every ballerina needs at least one member of the family who absolutely believes in her talent and her career."

In Lisa's case, her biggest fan has been her mother Susan, herself a ballet lover whose own dance ambitions were thwarted by Catholic school restrictions on ballet. Lisa's father, Cesar, a bigwig in finance circles, was always there, ever-ready to chauffeur his daughter to and from practice and performances. But it was Susan who guided her daughter to ballet, and then wisely stepped aside when it became fairly obvious that Lisa's heart had been given over to ballet.

Equally touching is how she found her second family in Russia, "TA" and her husband Sergei Vikulov; especially how she came to board with them after she sought consolation from them upon hearing news of her brother's death.

Lisa also writes of her "real-life pas-de-deux," her romance and marriage to industrialist Fred Elizalde, who has become the prime patron of Ballet Manila and booster of Lisa's career. Indeed, Lisa's has been a charmed life in ballet, a life that she has been generous enough to share with us, her homegrown audience.

Turkey and Europe: two trains on collision course?

WORLD VIEW

Joschka Fischer

BY INTERVENING IN LEBANON, EUROPEANS have made a far-reaching, risk-fraught, and, at the same time, correct decision. The reason is that the future of Europe's security will be determined in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. Europe, whether it likes it or not, has taken on a new, strategic role in the region. Should it fail, the price will be high.

It is, therefore, of utmost importance that a European "Grand Strategy" for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East be developed, so that Europe can calmly and clearly define its interests. In any serious variation of this Grand Strategy, Turkey will need to play a central role—politically, militarily, economically and culturally.

Safeguarding Europe's interests today means establishing a strong link—indeed an unbreakable bond—with Turkey as a cornerstone of regional security. So it is astonishing that Europe is doing exactly the opposite: firmly closing its eyes to the strategic challenge posed by Turkey.

Successful modernization and democratization of Turkey—with a strong civil society, the rule of law and a modern economy—will not only be hugely beneficial for Turkey, it will also export stability and serve as a model for transformation in the Islamic world. Above all, the successful modernization of a large Muslim country will make a decisive contribution to Europe's security.

Since the days of Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, the modernization of Turkey has relied on its Western or European perspective. For the last 43 years, this perspective has been largely defined by Turkey's interest in joining the European Union and by the EU's promise of accession. But at the very moment when even the slightest glance at the crisis-ridden region on Europe's eastern flank—Iran, Iraq, Syria, the Middle East conflict, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, Islamic terrorism, emigration and threats to Europe's energy supplies—should make clear Turkey's paramount importance to European security, Europe is reveling in its disinterest in the state of European-Turkish relations.

This autumn, the European Commission is scheduled to issue a progress report on its accession negotiations with Turkey. A dangerous situation may well emerge, as this report threatens to derail the whole process.

The key dispute is over Cyprus. Turkey has refused to open its ports, airports and roads to the Republic of Cyprus, as it is obligated to do by the Ankara Protocol, which set the terms of Turkey's accession negotiations. Turkey explains its refusal by the EU's failure (as a result of a veto by the Greek Cypriot government in Nicosia) to fulfill its own promise to open up trade with Northern Cyprus, which is under Turkish rule. The EU made these promises at the Council of Europe in December 2003 and formally at the Council of Foreign Ministers in April 2004. But so far it has not fulfilled them. So it is Ankara—and not the EU—that has a legitimate point here.

When the Ankara Protocol was agreed, the government of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan achieved something that, until then, had been considered impossible: he shattered the decades-old opposition of Turkish Cypriots to a compromise between the two parts of the divided island. Turkish Northern Cyprus accepted UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's plan (massively supported by the EU) to resolve the long-standing conflict. But the Greek South, goaded and inflamed by its government, rejected it. It would be deeply unjust and outright foolish if the EU Commission's report holds Turkey responsible for its refusal to make further concessions to Greek Cyprus (now an EU member), while refusing to blame the government in Nicosia, which is the real cause of the blockage.

Some in the EU—mainly in France, Germany, and Austria—seem smugly pleased by the prospect of a clash on this issue, believing it will force Turkey to give up its drive for membership. But this attitude is irresponsible. The EU is about to commit a grave strategic error by allowing its report this autumn to be guided by the short-sighted domestic policy considerations of some of its important member states.

And what perspective would Turkey have outside the EU? Pan-Turkish illusions? A return to the Orient and to Islam? None of these will work. But Turkey will not sit idly on Europe's doorstep. Europe's attitude is pushing Turkey toward forging alliances with its traditional regional rivals, Russia and Iran. These three powers, each of great importance to Europe, have been rivals for many centuries. So an alliance between them would seem a near impossibility. Yet Europe seems bent on achieving the impossible, to the Continent's detriment.

Within Turkey, opinion polls suggest that frustration with Europe is intensifying, while Iran is viewed with increasing favor. A sense of alienation toward the West is spreading, and Turkey's diplomatic relations with Russia have reached a hitherto unknown intimacy.

Of course, there is vast domestic resistance to Turkey's accession to the EU. The final result of the accession process is therefore an open question for both sides. Admittedly, Turkey has a long way to go. But to endanger this process here and now, in full awareness of the possible costs, is an act of very costly stupidity on the part of the Europeans—and stupidity is the worst sin in politics. In European-Turkish relations, two trains are racing headlong toward each other. Neither Turkey nor Europe can afford the all-too-foreseeable crash. *Project Syndicate/Institute of Human Sciences*

Joschka Fischer was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005. A leader of the Green Party for nearly 20 years, he is now a visiting professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

My 'Foolosophy'

YOUNG BLOOD

Karla Veronica Mercado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAKE UP PROBABLY AROUND 98 PERcent of my job description as a branding associate. I rarely do desk work. You'd usually see me going from one convention-slash-cocktail-party to the next, rubbing elbows, establishing close ties and constantly running out of calling cards. OK, maybe I exaggerated on the latter, but we all know that I would have to request a new batch, eventually.

I never really imagined myself doing PR, what with how I was back in the day—that passive girl quietly walking around campus with her purple backpack filled with used-up journals and pens running out of ink, looking for a nice, shady spot (preferably under a tree) to sit engagingly with the equally passive natural resources before her, so she could come up with what she liked to call "foolosophies." That was me. Actually, "me" still is, sometimes. When I'm lucky. Right now, everything's so fast-paced. Sadly, I haven't thought of a single foolosophy in a long time. But who knows, maybe this new article will miraculously turn out to be one.

I don't know, but God does work in mysterious ways. I landed the job as would any fresh graduate—by chance. I took it, again as would any fresh graduate—instantly! Hey, it was an opportunity. And hey, it's IBM. I didn't even know exactly what brand management entailed, but whatever, right? At least now, I can finally rise up from ultimate bumdom.

My job can be tiring, but it can be fulfilling, too. Take for instance one of my responsibilities—academe linkages. There was a time when I started missing school terribly, and I mean terribly to the point of crying myself to sleep, thinking about Ateneo like I'd think about a guy I couldn't get over with. I'm not kidding. But when I started taking on the role as university liaison, I finally started feeling better. I get to be this close to academic life again, and though at a different level, at least, I still get to taste the vibrance found only in a group of people whose only worry was to meet the grade point average—or how to finally ask for "that hottie's" number. It's refreshing. Feels like I'm getting to be a student again.

But aren't we all students for the rest of our lives? I'd like to believe so. I learned from Philosophy (not foolosophy) that as long as a person's alive, there's no such thing as an ultimate answer. Because a person will never stop asking questions as long as that person's breathing. It sounds kind of draining at first, sort of like saying Ha! You'll never know, loser. You'll never know. But it's exciting, too! It means there's something new to look forward to each day, with each breath we take, and with every beat our hearts make. Because as long as we're alive, there will always be new discoveries.

I did two of the most memorable talks I've had so far at Asia Pacific College and UP Diliman. I don't want to call them career or company talks, even if technically they were. As cheesy as it may sound, I tag them as motivational spiels. When it comes to my job, I especially enjoy standing before the students themselves and telling them about, well, hopefully what they really need to know as near graduates. I always try to instill in their minds that learning does not end once you get your college diploma, or once you enter the world outside school—that world that seems to think it knows everything.

You'll never know everything as long as you're alive. But that's the beauty of being alive.

Trust me, the best part about living is that you get to live it as a student constantly trying to come up with his/her own foolosophies. And I mean for the rest of it. For the rest of your life.

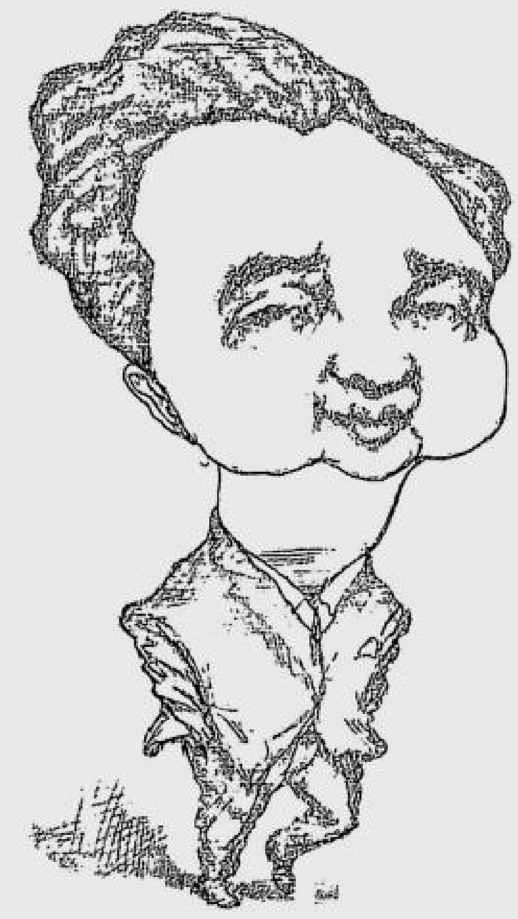
Now that's what I call a foolosophy.

Karla Veronica Mercado, 22, is a senior associate for Channel & Brand Management (IBM Daksh Business Process Services Phils. Inc.).

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano

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High court must remain supreme

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DENNIS VILLA-Ignacio contradicted a clear precedent when he said that the Supreme Court might not hear a direct petition for review of the Ombudsman's much-ballyhooed decision on the botched .election automation deal, because the case dealt with "questions of facts and not of law." (PDI, 10/6/06)

Indeed, during the recent oral argumentation on the people's initiative, were not the justices precisely inquiring not as much into questions of law as of facts in challenging the integrity of the signatures gathered by the Charter change proponents?

On the other hand, the proposition that the officials of the Commission on Elections had no criminal motive when they entered into the voided contract with Mega Pacific is rather one for the Marines. Firstly, why must the established bid procedures have to be blatantly violated? Secondly, a seeming lack of motive to commit a crime does not necessarily mean there is no crime. It simply means that the motive is not clearly known.

For motive resides in the innermost depths of one's conscience, hidden away from human observation, and thus "inaccessible" to the best crime investigator. The "inaccessibility" of a motive need not negate a crime. It is crystal-clear and unmistakable: the Ombudsman did commit a terrible travesty of justice! With all due respect, the high court must right this wrong, lest it cease being called "supreme."

It was bad enough that too many people had sneered at the initial resolution of the Ombudsman citing Resurreccion Borra as the one and only Comelec commissioner indictable for impeachable offense. It is worse that the final verdict absolved all the respondents. There is reason to believe, alas, that what happened in between is traceable to the silent workings of a power more overwhelming than the very conscience of the Ombudsman.

It is an open secret that the corruptive tentacles of that power had long invaded, and continue to invade, pollute and destroy, the moral fibers of every other branch of a government that has grown callous to public opinion. Unless those tentacles are exterminated—which no one èlse but the Supreme Court may do by giving true justice to the many petitions now awaiting its final resolution—this nation is going to the dogs.

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
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Russia's President Putin sounds like GMA

THE RECENT SLAYING OF RUSSIAN journalist Anna Politkovskaya has been reported in the media here in Hong Kong. The killing highlighted the fact that Russia today is the country with the third highest number of journalists killed. (Iraq is the first and the Philippines is the second.)

It's understandable that journalists have a high casualty rate in Iraq, that country being in a state of war. But for our country to be included in that infamous list makes one wonder how we could go on claiming to be a democracy.

As for Russia, it is known that President Vladimir Putin's government has been leaning toward totalitarianism. So, is the Philippines now to be judged as being so bereft of human principles that feudal-minded, corrupt and incompetent leaders have blackened the country's reputation?

Moving reports about Politkovskaya's funeral said large numbers of her supporters turned out to show their rage over her assassination and their respect for this woman who helped expose the torture of Chechnyan dissidents by Moscow-backed militia—the same elements suspected of having committed the murder. Putin has come out condemning the killing, but he somehow sounded just like our own President who has vowed that the killers of so many Filipino journalists would be punished.

—ISABEL ESCODA,
isabelescoda@yahoo.com

Leakages in other licensure exams?

IF TEST QUESTIONS WERE LEAKED IN the last nursing board exams, how could we be sure that there were no similar leakages in the past?

It is quite possible that cheating by various review centers and nursing schools has been going on for years, but people only got caught now.

If there had been leakages in past nursing board exams, what about the licensure exams for the other professions?

—OSCAR RAGUS,
oscar_ragus@yahoo.com

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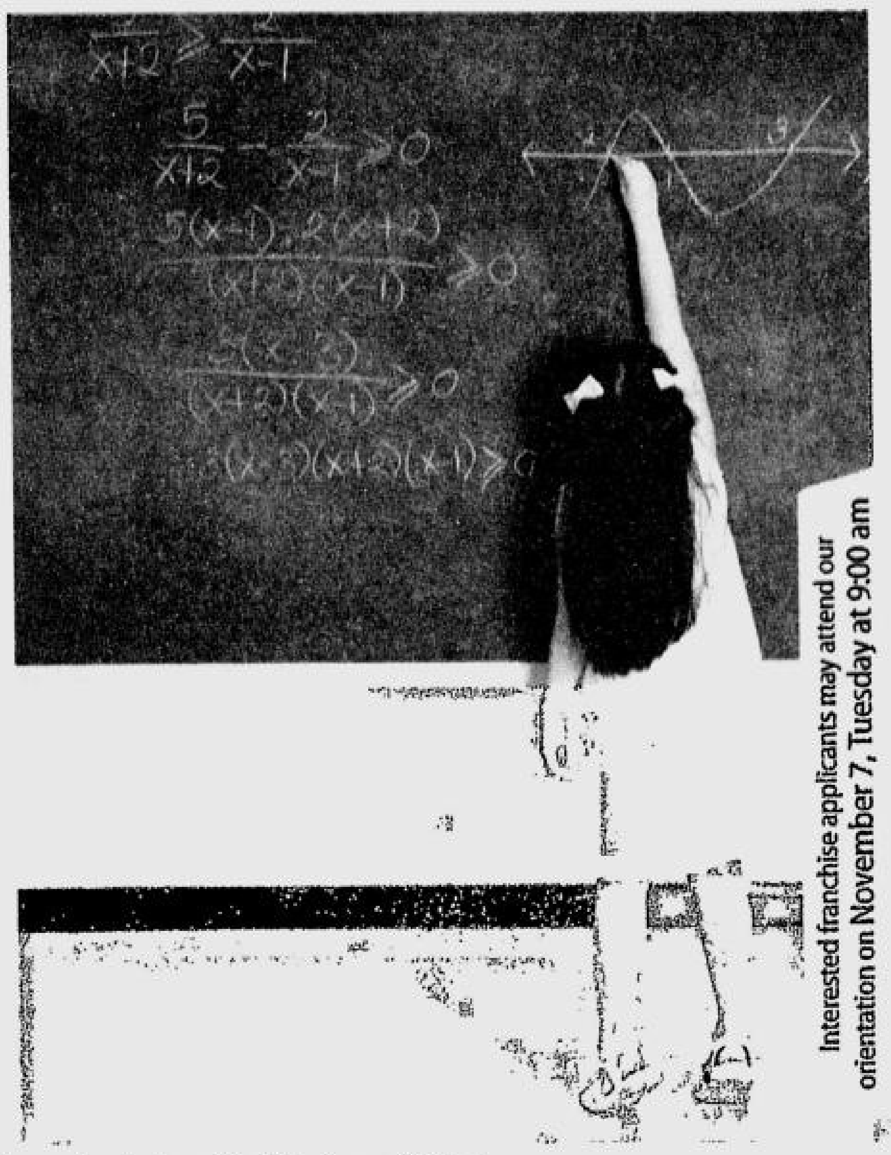

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KUMON

Pagasa warnings on Milenyo adequate

MAY WE REFER TO THE ARTICLE TITLED "Accurate weather forecast elusive." (Talk of the Town, PDI, 10/8/06)

The article blamed Pagasa for failing to properly warn the residents of Metro Manila about the impending danger Milenyo posed to Metro Manila and nearby provinces. On the contrary, a day before the storm hit the metropolis, Pagasa called a press conference to seek the media's help in informing the public about Milenyo. That same day, Pagasa, through the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), recommended the suspension the next day of classes in all levels and work in government offices in Metro Manila and nearby provinces because of the expected passage of the typhoon. Clearly, there was adequate warning fór Metro Manila.

It is an accepted fact in the scientific world that in weather prediction, there is no such thing as a "perfect forecast." Even the most advanced models used by the United States and other developed countries cannot achieve a so-called "perfect forecast." There will always be inadequacies in the forecast, considering that the prediction models consist of hydro-dynamical equations whose mathematical solutions are admittedly not exact. It is precisely for this reason that weather forecasts are updated every six hours—to reflect changes in the dynamically evolving atmosphere.

Also, for tracking purposes, Pagasa provides a point location to represent the center of the typhoon. However, we wish to point out that a typhoon is a huge weather system extending several hundreds of kilometers. Typhoon "Milenyo" was about 600 kilometers in diameter. And considering the possible deviations in the model's forecast and the size of the typhoon, the forecast path of the typhoon for the next three days was projected as a hatched area with increasing width in time and not as a line. (This is the same method advanced forecasting centers practice.) Areas that fall within the hatch were considered directly under typhoon threat.

We maintain that the forecasts and warnings issued by Pagasa were very adequate.

In the past, there had been unusual typhoons whose motion and development were not correctly represented by the mathematical models. These are the cases pointed out in the article. The state of technology in weather forecasting at this time has greatly improved compared to 10 years ago. And despite the quite unusual movement of Milenyo, Pagasa was able to issue appropriate forecasts and timely warnings to the public.

Rest assured, that we at Pagasa with the full support of the Department of Science and Technology, will continue to exert best effort and work round-the-clock in order to provide timely warnings to the public whenever there are indications that the country is threatened by weather disturbances.

—PRISCO D. NILO, Ph.D.,
officer in charge,
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical
and Astronomical Services Administration
(Pagasa), Diliman, Quezon City

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Eat for a healthy heart

THANKS TO TESSA SALAZAR FOR HER informative article on heart disease. ("Prevent heart disease, choose the right diet," PDI, 9/23/06) The best way to keep your heart healthy is to eat a nutritious vegan diet. Plant-based foods are cholesterol-free, low in fat and have actually been shown to reverse heart disease.

According to the American Dietetic Association and Dietitians of Canada, "Vegetarians have been reported to have lower body mass indices than non-vegetarians, as well as lower rates of death from ischemic heart disease; vegetarians also show lower blood cholesterol levels; lower blood pressure; and lower rates of hypertension, type 2 diabetes, prostate and colon cancer."

David Jenkins, a professor of nutrition and metabolism at the University of Toronto, Canada believes that "the evidence is pretty strong that vegans, who eat no animal products, have the best cardiovascular health profile and the lowest cholesterol levels." So be heart-smart: order or download a free vegetarian starter kit from www.GoVeg.com.

—ROCHELLE REGODON,
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People for the Ethical Treatment
of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific,
RochelleR@petaasiapacific.org

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

MEMBERS of a volunteer rescue group look for missing persons in the coastal areas of Guimbal to Tigbauan, Iloilo where two of 22 persons in the Oct. 2 tragedy in the Tangyan River were found. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Road tragedy brings grief to small town

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Igbaras, Iloilo

THE FIVE EMBIADO SIBLINGS clung to each other during the Mass as they continued to grapple with the tragedy that has struck their young lives.

The understanding and healing will not come soon for Vivina, 13; Jim Zedric, 12; Vivirlyn, 10; Zesangril, 7; and Zayca, 6.

Their mother Evangeline, 33, was among the 22 people who died when an overloaded jeepney was swept away by currents and fell into the Tangyan River as it crossed the overflow bridge in Sitio Songsongon, Barangay Barasan in Igbaras, Iloilo, on Oct. 2.

Their father Victor, 36, and aunt Jojana, 41, were among the 19 still missing.

The last time they saw each other, Evangeline had told Vivina not to lose their birth certificates because they would need them. The documents, it turned out, were among those needed in seeking compensation and financial assistance for their parents' death.

The siblings have stopped going to school since the accident and have been staying at their maternal grandparents' home in the hinterland village of Igcabugao.

"I don't know what we will do. Please help us so that we can still go to school," Vivina said during a Mass held near the site of the accident.

The tragedy has been considered the worst for Igbaras, 39 kilometers southwest of Iloilo City, next only to the 1989 New People's Army ambush on government troops that resulted in the death of seven policemen, one soldier and one militiaman a few meters from where the jeepney fell last week.

Almost all of the victims came from villages in the Kipot area, so named because of the two mountains that enclose the 11 barangays.

Lab-on (population: 360) accounts for 20 of the dead and missing, said village chief Santiago Embelliado.

Fr. Francis Nicolasora, the town's parish priest, said spiritual guidance was being given to the survivors and families of the victims.

"(The accident) has united the people and strengthened their faith," said Nicolasora.

But he said the loss of many lives should not be in vain.

During the Mass held on the riverbank, Nicolasora led more than 700 grief-stricken residents in calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to help prevent another accident.

"*Butangan sang taytay sa* Songsongon (Build a bridge in Sonsongon)," they said.

Many of those who came brought flowers and lighted candles on rocks and in between stones near the river.

"We grieve for the sudden death of our brothers and sisters. We cry because we love those who died and are still missing," said Nicolasora in his homily.

He recalled that many of those who died had received communion during the funeral service that they attended before the tragedy. "We are united to be one in carrying this Cross."

The priest said the tragedy united Igbarasnons who risked their lives in trying to save those who were swept by the swollen river. "They showed what it is to be a Christian," he said.

Nicolasora urged all families to plant fruit trees for the victims "so that their deaths will bear fruit for future generations."

He called on drivers of passenger vehicles not to put the lives of their passengers at risk.

Iloilo Rep. Janet Garin said she would try to look for funds for the construction of the bridge, which would cost at least P40 million based on initial estimates.

But the Federation of Iloilo Farmers' Association (Fifa), which has members among the victims, said that for a long time the road leading to the town's 11 hinterland villages and the overflow bridge had been neglected.

"Why must it come to this? How many more lives will have to be lost before officials see the urgency of building a bridge?" said Fifa chair Susanito Talibo in Hiligaynon.

Volunteer groups have ended their retrieval operations after the fourth day of searching for survivors and remains.

Mayor Jaime Esmeralda said the municipal police force, village officials and watchmen would continue the search.

Some of the relatives have not given up hope. "I feel that they are still alive and I would continue doing so until their bodies are found," said Alicia Embiado, 63, the siblings' grandmother.

At least 10 of those who died will be buried tomorrow after an overnight vigil at the town church.

Sing no sad songs for Victor

By Chito A. Fuentes
Tagbilaran City

TO THOSE WHO LOVE Victorio Olayvar dearly, Sept. 7 was the day the music died.

Olayvar, 41, died just as the sun rose at about 7:25 a.m. on Oct. 5. One of three assassins waiting for him at the Candaba bridge in Barangay Cantubod, Danao town in Bohol pumped bullets with a .45 cal. pistol in different parts of his body.

The jovial Victor, provincial chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and its vice chair for Central Visayas, was declared dead on arrival at the Dagohoy District Hospital in neighboring Inabanga town where he was brought after the killers fled.

Victor might have been a thorn to the government for his staunch advocacy of farmers' and human rights, but he was adored by those who knew him up close.

His wife Maria Elena, with whom he has seven children, described Victor as a responsible husband and a caring father.

"He is closer to the kids than I am," she confessed in Cebuano.

"He was a family man," affirmed Bayan Muna provincial coordinator John Ruiz.

Victor was legendary for his skill in playing the guitar. "He lights up any gathering the moment he gets hold of a guitar and sings," Ruiz recalled.

A natural performer, Victor could shift effortlessly from patriotic songs to pop hits by Air Supply and the Bee Gees.

There is little doubt about his charm and charisma, but Victor was serious about his convictions.

When he was a high school student in Barangay Cabiguhan, Trinidad town, Victor already showed signs that he knew what he stood for.

OLAYVAR

His younger brother Danilo recalled that after finishing high school, Victor's Grade 6 teacher offered to pay for his college tuition because he saw his potential. There was one catch though: she wanted him to work abroad after graduation.

Victor turned down the offer, saying that if he would be able to finish college, he would serve fellow Boholanos.

Ruiz said Victor was a tireless worker who never wavered in his commitment. Although he had a reputation for his sense of humor, he was also very courageous.

He recalled an incident when leftist groups held a rally during a visit made by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year.

"I was speaking over the megaphone when about three policemen lunged at me to confiscate the microphone. Without missing a beat, Victor came to my defense and the policemen backed off," Ruiz added.

Although he was a firebrand during rallies, Victor was naturally soft-spoken.

Maria Elena never recalled any incident that her husband figured in a fight.

"He was even the one who mediated whenever there were disagreements between relatives and neighbors," she noted.

Proof of this was his election as vice president of the Virgen sa Barangay Chapel in Bil-isan, Panglao where they live.

So what could have been the reason Victor was killed?

All indications point to the widening crackdown on political activists as the cause.

"The only people who had a motive against him are those who were affected by the causes that he espoused," Ruiz said.

Danilo noted that the only fight his brother fought were those that demanded action from government agencies, particularly land for the landless.

When she first heard about the death threats against her husband, Maria Elena said she asked aloud if speaking at rallies had become a sin.

Militants suspect a cover-up not only to divert the issue but also to steer the investigation away from the real criminals.

Ruiz noted that the statements being issued by the military and the police on the possible angles for the murder tend to suggest an execution either by the New People's Army (NPA) for alleged crimes committed against the movement or due to a conflict within the underground movement.

The latest angle was that Victor's killing was ordered by a family of a victim killed by the NPA in Danao town. Police, however, declined to give identities and did not say how killing Victor would avenge that death.

Danilo is demanding justice for his brother. Maria Elena and her seven children orphaned with Victor's murder along with the ranks of cause-oriented groups echo the same cry.

Victor may have died, but the music of his struggle lives on in those who vowed to carry on his fight.

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Beheading in Muslim village probed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE COMMISSION ON Human Rights (CHR) has started investigating allegations that Scout Rangers beheaded a barangay official of Patikul last week.

Jose Manuel Mamauag, Western Mindanao human rights chief, told the INQUIRER that a team was sent to Sulu on Monday to determine the veracity of the claims of relatives of Bubak Omadjadi.

He said aside from beheading the victim, the soldiers also allegedly skinned him.

Omadjadi was a village councilor of Barangay Bongkaong in Patikul town.

Based on a report from the Sulu police office, Omadjadi's decapitated body was recovered near his house on Oct. 4, a day after government security forces took custody of Istiada Oemar Sovie, the wife of Indonesian terror suspect Dulmatin.

Supt. Ahirum Ajirim, provincial police director, said they were still investigating the report.

But Haji Munuh Omadjadi, the victim's brother and village chair of Bongkaong, said in an affidavit submitted to the CHR that the slain councilor was forcibly taken inside his house by soldiers shortly before 8 a.m. of Oct. 4 for questioning.

Mamauag said the team would look into the claim and will also talk with local military commanders in the area.

"It was simply the report submitted to us; the team will later provide me with the developments of the investigation. Initially, the report indicated that the military was behind the incident," Mamauag said.

Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade, said it was only when the INQUIRER called him up that he heard of the supposed beheading.

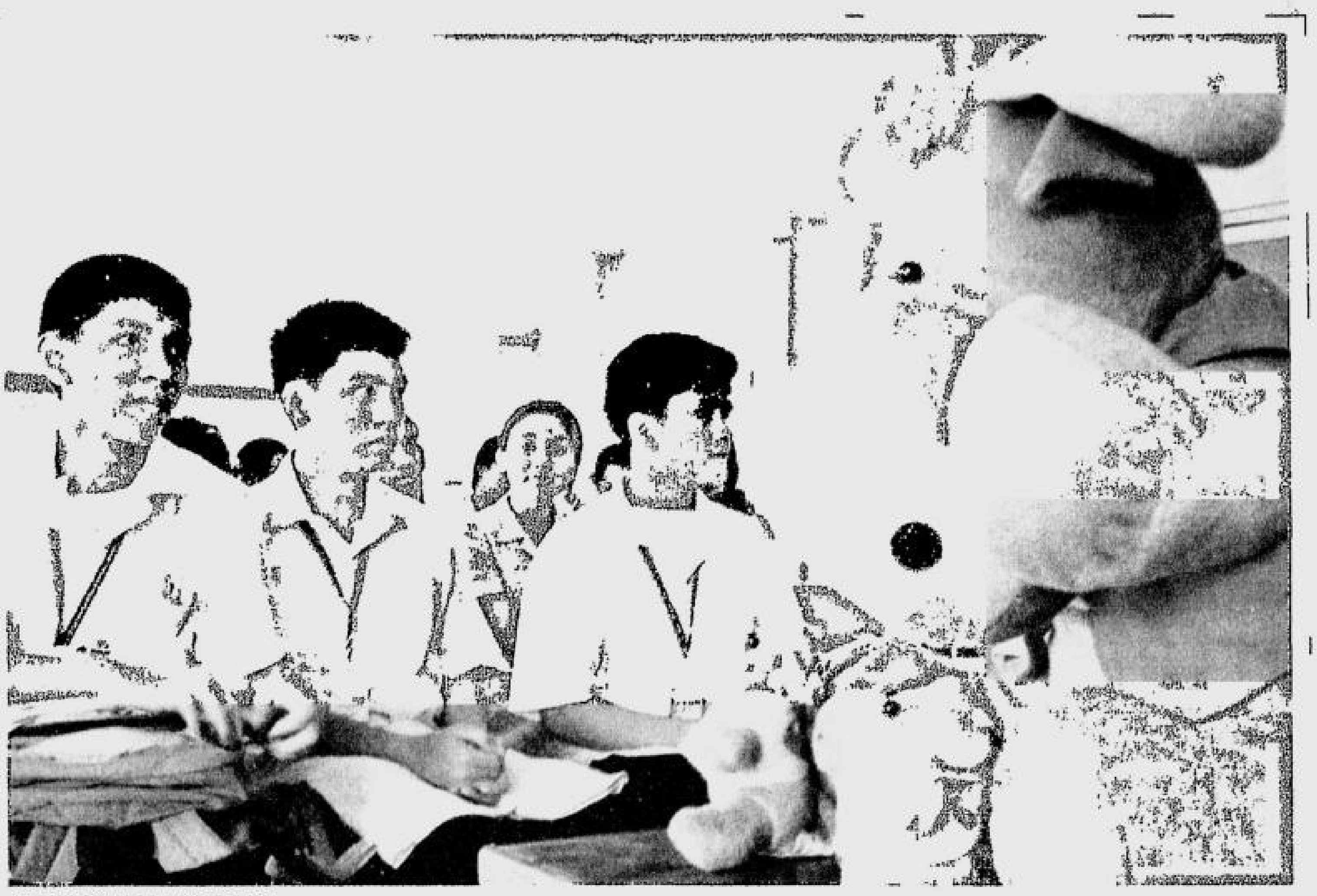
"I still have to verify that," he said.

The Geneva-based Center for Humanitarian Dialogues said it received a report from the local military command in Sulu that there was indeed a beheading case in Patikul but that the suspects were local terrorists.

The CHD said military officials in Sulu told them the victim was killed because the Abu Sayyaf had suspected he was instrumental in the capture of Dulmatin's wife.

In Tacurong City, two police officers were found dead inside a car abandoned in a remote village Tuesday, police said.

Supt. Kadil Masahud, chief of Sultan Kudarat police mobile group, identified the policemen as PO1 Salahudin Puti and PO1 Sahidi Abdul, both assigned to the Cotabato City police office. *Julie Alipala and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*



ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

FUN WITH MASCOTS
Students of the Philippine Science High School in Iloilo City have varied responses to stuffed toy replicas of Guyito, the Philippine Daily Inquirer mascot, during the turn over to their school of one of 20 Guyitos painted by the country's top artists. Three of these painted Guyitos were distributed to deserving schools in the Visayas.

Baguio group insists cheating was nationwide

BAGUIO CITY—THE GROUP THAT exposed cheating in the June nursing licensure examinations here met and tried to convince Labor Secretary Arturo Brion that the test leakage happened nationwide.

Ruth Thelma Tingda, nursing school dean of the Easter College and a governor of the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA), said the meeting on Friday was meant to introduce evidence supposedly ignored by the National Bureau of Investigation.

The group's lawyer also submitted on Friday the same evidence to the Department of Justice, which is conducting a preliminary investigation of the fraud case that the NBI filed against the owners and teachers of nursing review centers in Baguio City and Metro Manila.

The NBI report showed that cheating occurred only in the testing centers in Baguio and Metro Manila where 18-page photocopies of test questions were circulated during the exams on June 11 and 12.

The group's evidence included testimonies and affidavits from examinees in some provinces in Mindanao to prove that the test leakages also reached them.

Tingda on Thursday said isolating Baguio was the scenario the whistleblowers feared would happen when they decided to complain. She said the group feared the NBI report reinforced a whitewash that was meant to protect government officials involved in manipulating the examinations.

But while Brion listened to group, he remained silent about what he would recommend to President Macapagal-Arroyo, she said.

"Brion sealed his mouth [when we asked about] his inclinations regarding the retake issue. He assured us [that an administrative order] will be released by Monday," Tingda said in a text message sent from Metro Manila.

But another member of the group said Brion immediately called the NBI to determine why the evidence they presented was not included in the final report to the President.

The R.A. Gapuz Review Center and the Pentagon Review Specialist Inc., which operate Baguio branches, are included in the NBI charge list.

Gapuz link

The Baguio examinees said people wearing R.A. Gapuz jackets circulated photocopies of the test leakage that were later traced to two members of the Professional Regulation Commission's Board of Nursing.

The same examinees later informed the PNA about test leakage turning up among clients of Pentagon.

The Baguio group included in their DOJ documents a sworn statement issued by Dennis Bautista, the Metro Manila examinee who linked R.A. Gapuz and former PNA president George Cordero to the cheating in a Senate inquiry.

Bautista's testimony, according to the group, intended to "disprove allegations that the leakage did not reach the Visayas and Mindanao," by relating that the final review coaching conducted on June 10 by Ricarte Gapuz, owner of R.A. Gapuz, was broadcast simultaneously throughout the country. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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DOJ includes 6 cops, Bacolod trader in kidnap-murder case

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—JUSTICE SECretary Raul Gonzalez has ordered the provincial prosecutor of Negros Oriental to include six policemen, a Bacolod businessman and nine others in the kidnap-murder case involving the death of a former village chair and two others in 2003.

Two of the six policemen who would be included in the complaint for the death of Eleuterio Salabas and his two companions were Bacolod precinct commanders, Senior Insp. Jonathan Lorilla of Precinct 7 and Chief Insp. Jimmy Fortaleza of Precinct 1.

Gonzalez, in a resolution promulgated on Oct. 2, also ordered the inclusion of Senior Insp. Clarence Dongail, SPO2 Freddie Natividad, PO1 Bernardo Cimatu, PO2 Allen Winston Hulleza, businessman Manolo Escalante, Ronnie Herrera, July Flores alias Kirhat de la Rosa, Carlo de los Santos alias Caloy, Lorraine Abay alias Lulu, Mamerto, Elma and Elson, all surnamed Cañete, and Jude Montilla in the amended complaint.

Salabas, a brother in law of former Bacolod Rep. John Orola and former barangay chair of Pahanocoy, Bacolod City, and companions Ricardo Suganob and Maximo Lomoljo were on board a Nissan Frontier when they disappeared on Aug. 31, 2003, following a traffic altercation with three persons along the highway of Barangay Tangub, Bacolod City. The Nissan Frontier was found later in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

The bodies of Suganob and Lomoljo were found separately in Bago City and Pulupandan, both in Negros Occidental, on Sept. 1 and 2, 2003. Fishermen found the decomposing body of Salabas on Sept. 19, 2003 floating in the waters between Ajuy, Iloilo, and Manapla, Negros Occidental. The three were reportedly tortured, before they were killed.

The National Bureau of Investigation linked Dongail and the other accused in the kidnap-slay of Salabas and his companions. Dongail was allegedly the person who led the group that abducted Salabas and his companions. Escalante, on the other hand, was allegedly a casino financier from whom Salabas owed a huge sum of money. Dongail and Escalante had both denied the charges.

Gonzalez also sent a memorandum on Oct. 2 to Chief Supt. Geary Barias, the police regional director in Western Visayas, recommending Dongail's relief as he had been identified as a principal suspect in the kidnap-murder case.

Barias yesterday said Dongail is no longer in the region as he now serves as liaison with the Philippine National Police directorial staff in Camp Crame.

BFAR confirms red tide, bans sale of shellfish

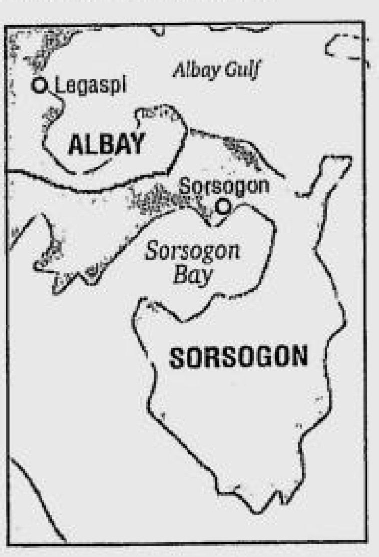
SORSOGON CITY—THE BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has declared a ban on the gathering and sale of shellfish from Sorsogon Bay after confirming it was contaminated with red tide toxin.

Three children died recently after eating contaminated seashells.

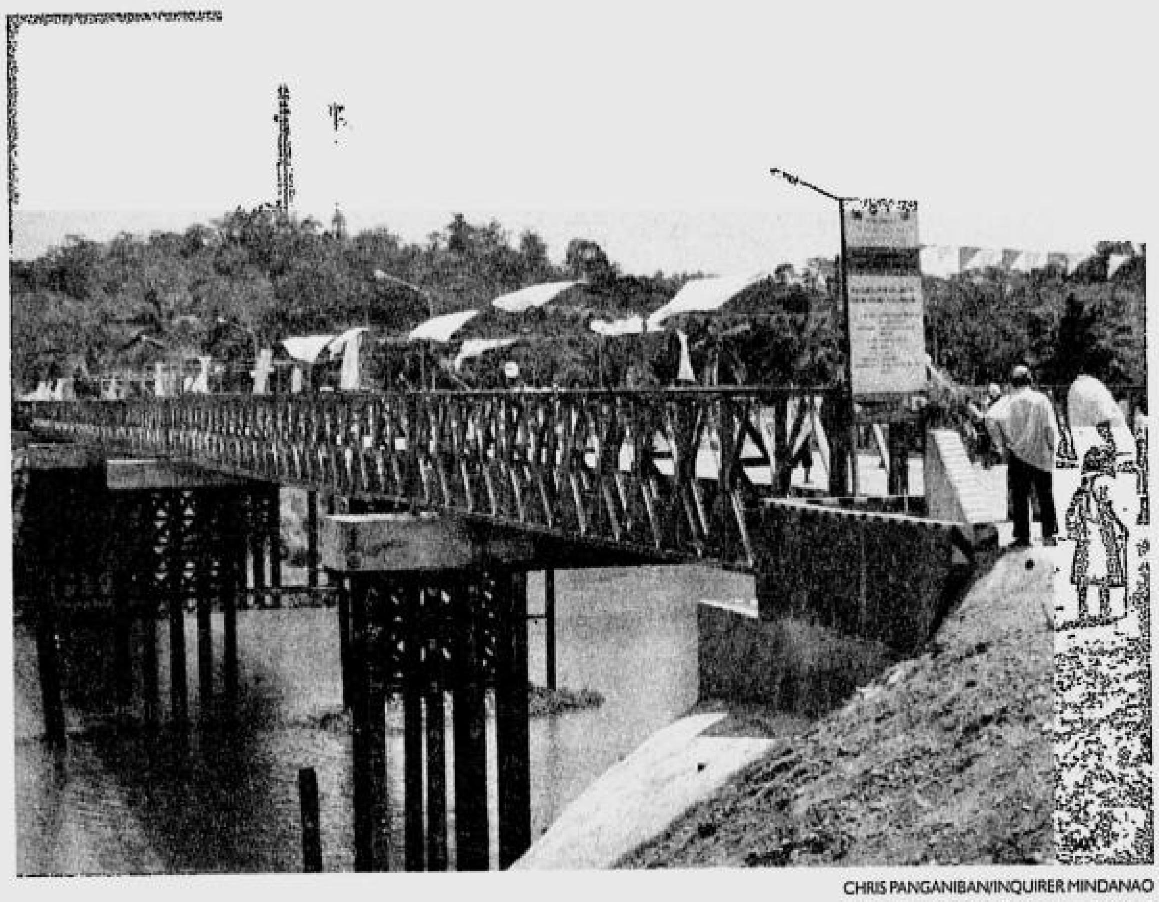
BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento said the paralytic shellfish poisoning toxin levels in shellfish samples were very high, reaching 292 to 323 ugSTXeq/100g of shellfish meat as compared to the safe level of 40ugSTXeq/100g.

Sarmiento, however, said fish and other marine products are safe provided they are fresh and cleaned thoroughly and their internal organs and gills are removed.

At least 30 persons have been hospitalized here due to red tide poisoning.



The ban on shellfish gathering came as the province reels from the effects of Typhoon Milenyo. Sorsogon suffered heavily from the typhoon and concerned residents have started a fund-raising campaign to help the province. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



CHRIS PANGANIBAN/INQUIRER MINDANAO

THE OPENING of the San Luis Bridge breaks the isolation of the western and eastern villages of San Luis, Agusan del Sur that forced farmers to take a circuitous, 10-km route just to sell their products.

New ₱115-M, 130-meter bridge removes remote Agusan villages from isolation

SAN LUIS, AGUSAN DEL SUR—Farmers in the western villages of this town, where neighbors live from 500 meters to a kilometer apart, used to take a winding, 10-km route passing through another town to sell their produce in the poblacion.

The route used to be the only way to get past the Agusan River that separates the eastern and western villages of the town, a mountainous, remote area where fog sets in at any hour of the day.

The farmers' arduous journey to sell their produce would now be a thing of the past.

Local officials and executives from the Department of Agrarian Reform opened a 130-meter long, P115-million steel bridge across the river to link the farmers to their market.

It was built through the DAR's Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Area Development (MinSSAD).

President's orders

President Macapagal-Arroyo came to the site of the bridge in March and saw for herself a dilapidated hanging foot bridge that served as the only link between the town's western villages and its town hall and the poblacion.

It was during that visit when Ms Arroyo ordered the DAR to set aside funds for the steel bridge.

At the inauguration on Oct. 5, Mayor Jose Chua said the opening of the two-lane steel bridge will lift the isolation of the town hall, the poblacion, and the western and eastern villages.

After the inauguration, Chua declared the hanging foot bridge closed and condemned it to prevent a tragedy that befell another hanging foot bridge in neighboring Esperanza town where a person was killed and five others seriously hurt when it collapsed early last month.

The structure was initially designed as a concrete bridge but the cost, P180 million, was prohibitive.

Building it was reassigned to the Tulay ng Pangulo program. The program's engineers made another design, this time using steel.

Imported

Celedonio Dejolde, an engineer of the province, said the steel parts needed for the bridge were imported from the United Kingdom.

Celedonio said based on current standards, the steel bridge would cost P700,000 to P800,000 per linear meter.

The San Luis Bridge construction was completed in 250 days.

Gov. Adolph Edward Plaza said the new bridge was a realization of a dream that his late father, former governor Democrito Plaza, had. It prompted him to help lobby with the President to make good his father's commitment to the town. *Chris Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao*

7 NPAs in airport attack captured at checkpoint

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—SEVEN SUSpected New People's Army rebels believed to be among those responsible for the attack at the airport project in Silay City were captured on Wednesday by the military in Calatrava and Toboso, Negros Occidental.

The suspected rebels, that included three minors aged 15, 16 and 17, were captured by Army soldiers.

Col. Gregorio Fajardo, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, said the three minors were arrested in Barangay Telim, Calatrava in the company of two suspected rebels identified as Nathaniel Alesgar, 18, and Ruel Tapio, 21. The two were caught carrying firearms.

Two other suspected rebels, identified as Noel Bacordo and Dominador de la Torre, were on board a public utility jeep when arrested by soldiers manning a checkpoint in Barangay Bug-ang, Toboso after they were found to be carrying firearms, Fajardo said.

Two .38 cal. revolvers with 11 rounds of ammunition were recovered from Bacordo and De la Torre, according to Senior Insp. Romeo Leyte, chief of the Toboso police, which now has custody of the two suspected rebels.

An M-16 rifle and a Thompson sub-machine gun were seized from Alesgar and Tapio, Fajardo said.

Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, the newly installed provincial police director of Negros Occidental, ordered the setting up of police checkpoints and the checking of victims of gunshot wounds in hospitals, in connection with the encounter in Calatrava.

The recovery of four more guns brought to 10 the number of firearms seized by soldiers under Task Group North, which has combined forces of the 11th and 61st Infantry Battalions and the 3rd Scout Ranger Company.

Soldiers from these units have been clashing with 50 to 60 rebels in the upland areas of Calatrava and Toboso.

Also seized by soldiers were two M-16 assault rifles, a FAL Jet automatic rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun, M-60 machine gun links containing ammunition, a handheld radio set and communist documents, Fajardo said.

Soldiers and rebels clashed Wednesday in Barangay Cruz, Calatrava as an offshoot of the military's operations against the rebels who raided and bombed the ongoing international airport project in Silay City on Oct. 8.

At least 5,000 residents from the mountain villages of Calatrava and Toboso have evacuated to the town centers to avoid getting caught in the crossfire, local officials said.

Fajardo believed that some rebels were injured in the clashes because of the bloodstains found along their withdrawal routes and of the firearms that were left behind.

No casualty was reported on the government side, he added.

The five captured rebels were turned over by Lt. Col. Felicisimo Budiongan, Task Group North commander, to the Calatrava Police Station.

Gov't civil service exams appear tough for Ilocos aspirants

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—IS the civil service examination among the hardest government-sanctioned tests?

At least for examinees in the Ilocos, this would seem so as only between 4 and 10 percent of them passed the career service exams this year, records from Civil Service Commission's provincial office here showed.

The national passing rate ranges from 6-10 percent.

The CSC said only 115 of the 2,354 examinees, representing 4.88 percent, passed the career service professional examinations in the Ilocos in July. For the sub-professional exams, 70 of 799 examinees passed, representing 8.76 percent.

The examinations, a requirement for people seeking employment and tenure in government, were conducted in this capital town of Pangasinan, in San Fernando City, La Union, and in Laoag City in Ilocos Norte.

The passing rate for the April exams was a bit higher, CSC records showed. Some 240 of 2,594 (9.25 percent) passed the professional exams while 76 of 954 (7.97 percent) passed the sub-professional level.

John Cruz Rivera, CSC Pangasinan director, said the passing rate is just about the same through the years.

"It hardly goes beyond 10 percent," Rivera said.

He said examinees would usually score low in mathematics and language tests.

Rivera said their records also showed that the younger examinees, or those fresh out of college, had better chances of passing the examinations.

"It seems that the younger examinees were better prepared than the older examinees," he said.

He said the civil service exams' passing rate is much lower than the professional licensure examinations (nursing, law, medicine) because "some schools screen the students who will take the exams and the students review before taking these."

"In the civil service exams, it is 'free-for-all' and the examinees hardly prepare for it," he said. "Most of them just want to try their luck and take the civil service so that if one day they want to join the government service, they have the eligibility.'"

He said the civil service exams have also been liberalized since 2003.

"Anybody can now take them, even those who just finished elementary grades. But not many undergraduate students take the exams despite the liberalization," he said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
TransCo

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV Transmission Line 2 (Phase II)

The proposed project is located in Quezon Province with an estimated length of 59.451 linear kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all materials (excluding Overhead Ground Wire), labors, superintendence, supplies, tools, and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardwares in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

[TRANS-06-ROHGWGLP2-EG-33]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Four Million Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Ninety Five & 46/100 (Php4,215,095.46)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire Along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV T/L 2 (Phase II)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for *the refurbishment of corroded overhead ground wire along gumaca-labo 230 kV T/L 2 (Phase II)*. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Specialties"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B-Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution)***, respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving supply of materials (excluding overhead ground wire), labor, tools and equipment including superintendence for the rehabilitation/replacement/installation/construction of transmission lines rated 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***November 08, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***90 working days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***October 16-November 06, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***November 08, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***November 08, 2006, 9:30 A. M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM** Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***November 16-17, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php2,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***November 16-17, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***November 22, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***December 06, 2006, 9:30 A. M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***December 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4094; 4086; 4053

rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph.

(SGD.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC Chairman

(PDI Oct 14 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
CHONTA CHICKEN BARBEQUE 643 Gen. Malvar St., Brgy. 698 Malate, Manila	Tongiel Han	Marketing Officer
COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F, Twr. 2 RCBC Plaza Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City	David Andrew Young	Vice President
ZHONG XIN TRADING CORP. Merwin Mart, 3065 F.B. Harrison St. Pasay City	Guobao Pan	Purchasing Manager
WU ZHENG GENERAL MERCHANDISE, INC. Merwin Mart, #3065 F.B. Harrison Pasay City	Jishui Huang	Purchasing Manager
ZHONG XIN TRADING CORP. Merwin Mart, #3065 F.B. Harrison Pasay City	Peigen Huang	Sales Manager
MISNET, INC. Unit 27/F, Trident Tower #312 Sen. G. Puyat Ave. Makati City	Susmita Bhattasali	Quality Assurance Engineer
ALFA WAN TAI INC. 2407 T. Mapua cor. Blumentritt St. Manila	Haiya Wang	Manager
JAPFIL KAGAWA FOUNDATION INC. 3/F Unit 3-A Summerlin Bldg. 2454 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City	Yoshihisa Nishizaki	Consultant
JAPFIL KAGAWA FOUNDATION INC. 3/F Unit 3-A Summerlin Bldg. 2454 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City	Hideaki Tanahashi	Consultant
CONVERGYS PHILIPPINES SERVICES CORP. Convergys One Bldg. cor. Ayala Ave. & Salcedo St., San Lorenzo, Makati City	Brett Allen Hyde	Operations Director
ALL NET FREE ROAMING CORPORATION 402 Executive Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Jae Hyung Jeong	President
CLIENTLOGIC PHILIPPINES, INC. 22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City	Nolan Ryan Hass	Operations Director
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave. Makati City	Anggraini Widjanarti	Business Analyst
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave. Makati City	Panida Sriwattakaphong	Business Analyst
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave. Makati City	Christine Surawatanaporn	Functional Analyst
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave. Makati City	Arie Andika Setiawan	Functional Analyst
RCG INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INC. 39/F Philamlife Tower 8767 Paseo de Roxas Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Leon Castelyn	Vice President
LEGEND DRAGON, INC. Manila Bay beside CCP Complex Manila	Fat Shing Cheung	Executive Chef
LEGEND DRAGON, INC. Manila Bay beside CCP Complex Manila	Tsan Yip Hui	Executive Sous Chef
LEGEND DRAGON, INC. Manila Bay beside CCP Complex Manila	Shek Lun Wu	Resident Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 14, 2006)

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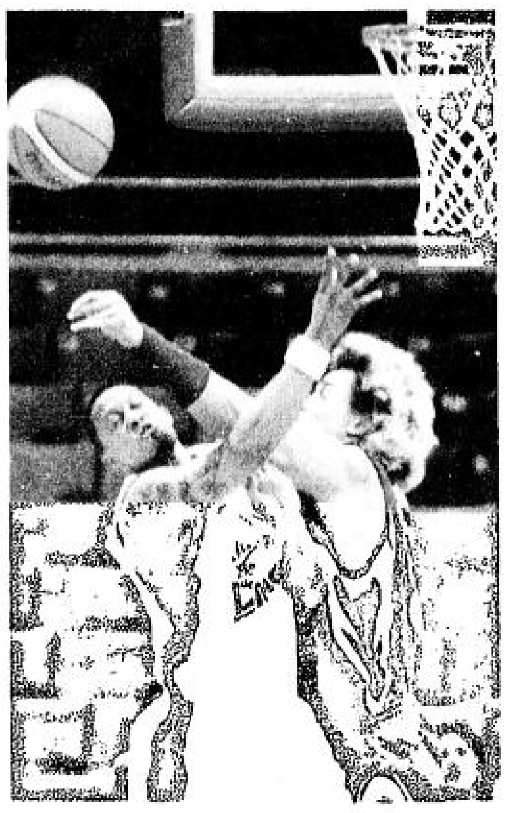


WELCOAT'S Rob Wainwright (left) disputes the rebound with TNT's Asi Taulava. RYAN LIM

By Musong R. Castillo

COCA-COLA PLAYED SO WELL ON A NIGHT Red Bull couldn't put anything together, and the Bulls became the first powerhouse team in the PBA Philippine Cup to fall after a 105-86 defeat to the Tigers last night.

The Tigers used a strong start to build momentum and then capitalized on almost every Red Bull boo-boo to bounce back from a similar shock loss the last time out and win for the first time in three games.

Red Bull failed to gain a share of the lead with the loss, its first in three games. And that left idle Barangay Ginebra tied with Talk 'N Text, which flexed just enough muscle in ripping newcomer Welcoat, 115-99, earlier.

Very few actually expected Coca-Cola to give the Bulls a hard time—much less win—with the Tigers coming off a 75-85 loss to the expansion team Dragons just last Sunday and Red Bull fresh from whipping two formidable foes in the first 10 days of the eliminations.

But the Bulls saw their layups rim out, their jumpers clank the rim and some of them even dribbled off their feet in fastbreak plays to give the Tigers more than enough window to mount an attack and post the first real upset of the young tournament.

GAMES TODAY
(*San Juan Arena*)
4:05 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs. Alaska
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Air21
GAMES TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Welcoat vs. San Miguel
6:35 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs. Red Bull

Coca-Cola got big numbers from Mike Gavino and Chris Pacana, unheralded rookies picked in the bottom of the draft's second round.

Gavino, a 6-foot-4 slotman out of the University of the Philippines, helped tremendously in the shaded lane, while Pacana, a California-born guard, hit 11 of his 13 markers in the first half where the Tigers took a 54-45 lead.

The Tigers played so bad they showed their frustration in the second half. Enrico Villanueva was charged with a flagrant foul off Joseph Yeo and guard Junethy Valenzuela was thrown out after committing two of his own in the fourth quarter alone.

Harvey Carey, meanwhile, scored 10 of his 22 points in the first quarter, and Ren-Ren Ritualo finished with 20 to lead the Phone Pals to a third straight victory.

The scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 115—Carey 22, Ritualo 20, Washington 18, Taulava 16, Allado 12, Cardona 8, Alapag 7, Belano 7, Fran 3, Pablo 2, Andaya 0.

WELCOAT 99—Lopez 21, Wainwright 18, Reyes 15, Cabatu 13, Gelig 10, Tangkay 10, Sta. Maria 4, La'O 4, Ibanez 2, Baguion 2, Mente 0.

Quarters: 33-25, 60-38, 84-66, 115-99.

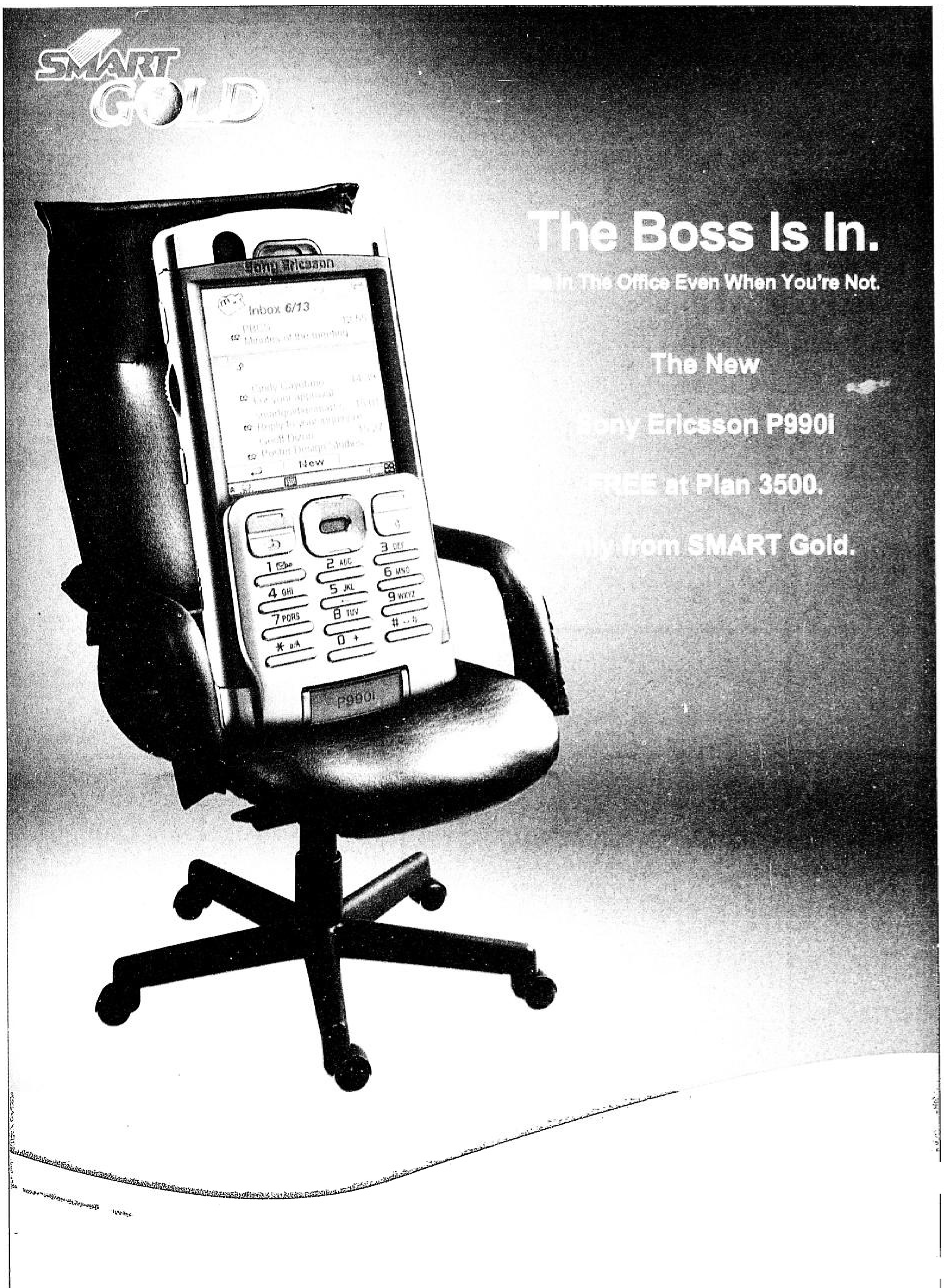
Second Game

COCA-COLA 105—Arigo 27, Peek 14, Pacana 13, Yeo 12, Raneses 12, Misolas 8, Gavino 6, Miranda 6, Antonio 5, Ferreria 2, Salangsang 0.

RED BULL 86—Villanueva 14, Valenzuela 11, Pennisi 10, Sharma 9, Baguio 9, Najorda 8, Fonacier 7, Robinson 7, Alvarez 6, Tugade 3, Cruz 2, Bugia 0.

Quarters: 25-24, 54-45, 79-67, 105-86.

More Sports stories on A23-26



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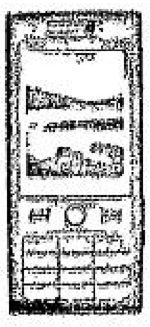

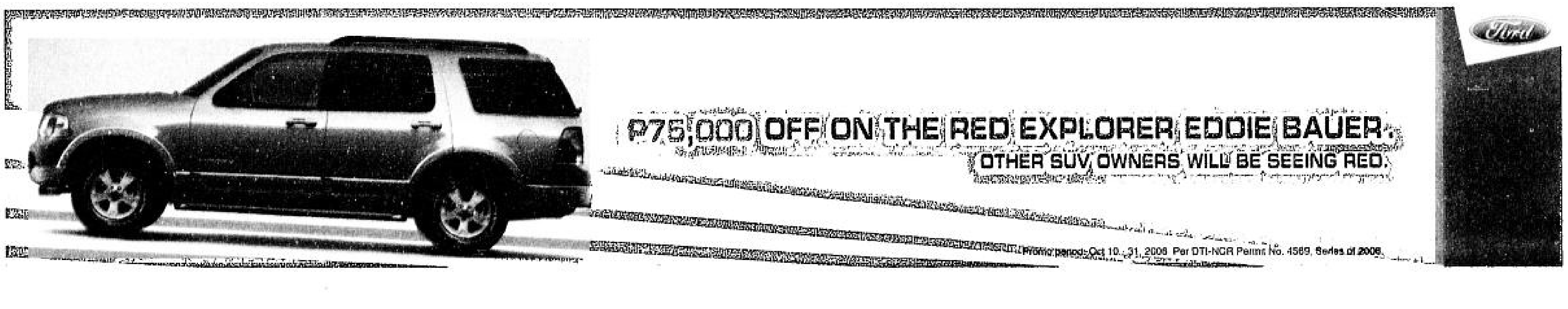

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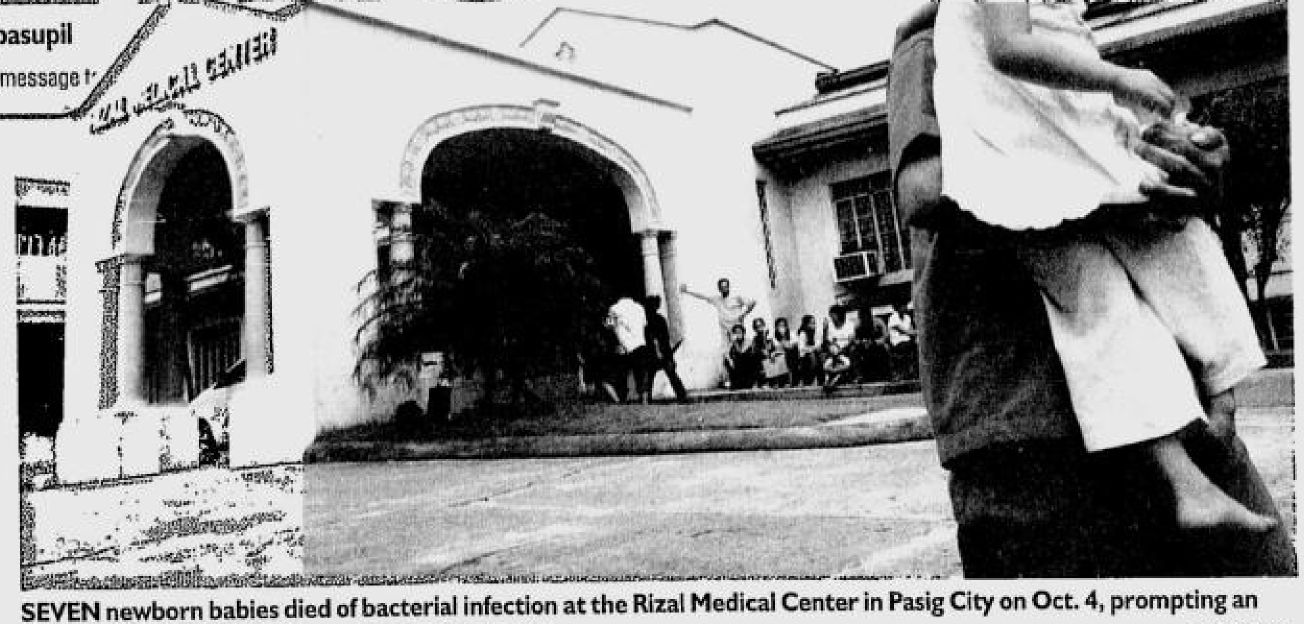
DOH orders probe after Rizal hospital tragedy



SEVEN newborn babies died of bacterial infection at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City on Oct. 4, prompting an investigation into hygienic practices at the facility.

RAFFY LERMA

Sanitation regulations stressed

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE III has stressed the need for government hospitals to observe strictly sanitation and sterilization procedures.

Duque issued the reminder following the death of seven babies born at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City apparently of infections.

The health secretary created a five-person investigating committee to determine how the babies got infected. He added that the incident should "serve as a lesson to other government hospitals."

Parents of the children who died of neonatal sepsis or bacterial infection, days after their birth in the hospital on Oct. 4, have blamed the medical center for the deaths.

But health officials said it was also possible some of the babies, who had already been taken home, could have gotten the infection either outside the hospital, or from their mothers who could have passed on the infections.

The team of four government health officials and a private doctor has five days to complete the investigation. "We want to assure the public the investigation will be transparent and independent," Duque told the INQUIRER.

Members of the investigation team are Dr. Aileen Javier of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Dr. Gener Becina of the National Children's Hospital, Dr. Abelardo Alera of the San Lazaro Hospital, Dr. Virgilio Castro of the University of Sto. Tomas and Carmen Buenaflor of the Philippine Heart Center.

Health Undersecretary Margarita Galon will supervise the team.

Temporary closure

Duque went to the Pasig hospital yesterday and ordered the temporary closure of the delivery room and other areas that could harbor infectious organisms.

Hospital chief Winston Go said the delivery room was undergoing decontamination and tests would be conducted to determine if it was already safe to use. He said women due to give birth were advised to go to other hospitals as the room would probably be closed until next week.

But the hospital, which averages 30-35 deliveries every day, has set aside an area for "emergency deliveries."

Though Go had apologized to the parents of the dead infants, he stressed that the hospital did everything to protect them.

Hospital records showed that out of 28 babies born in the hospital on Oct. 4, at least 12 babies developed neonatal sepsis.

Doctors said five of the children had stayed in the hospital since they were born because of early signs of infection, while seven babies were brought back by their parents two days after they were released. Two of those who stayed and five of those who were readmitted died between Oct. 6 and 8.

Janice dela Cruz, 23, whose daughter was among those who died, said, "I just want justice not only for my daughter but also for the children of the other mothers." The Mandaluyong City resident said she and the other mothers who lost their babies were thinking of filing a complaint. Dela Cruz said she was brought to the delivery room before it could be cleaned after another patient had used it.

'Abnormal condition'

Go said the hospital was in an "abnormal condition" the day Dela Cruz and the other women gave birth. Though power had been restored in the hospital after Typhoon "Milenyo," a transformer exploded, shutting down the power supply to the hospital again. The water service had also been cut off, he added.

Following the deaths of the babies, other parents have taken their children out of the hospital.

Marie, a 23-year-old woman from Taguig City, said conditions in the delivery room were difficult. "We were like sardines in the room. There were four of us in just one bed," she told the INQUIRER.

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Sulit	7 days	30.00	27.00	24.00
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	7 days	50.00	45.00	40.00
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HOW TO REGISTER: For 1st Barkada Member
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*Group is completed upon registration of the 3rd member. **3rd member has 15 days to register from the creation of the group.

HOW TO JOIN: For 2nd and 3rd Barkada Member
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No suspension order yet for Makati Mayor Binay

By Tarra V. Quismundo
and Norman Bordadora

DESPITE NEWS THAT A FORMER ally would support a complaint filed against him, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is taking everything in stride.

The mayor's camp expected the Department of Interior and Local Government to suspend Binay by rushing the evaluation of an administrative complaint by political rival Roberto Brillante against him, Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, and 16 city councilors. The complaint alleged City Hall had ghost employees.

Oscar Ibay, a former three-term councilor and Binay ally who ran against the mayor in the 2004 elections, said yesterday he was willing to present proof of the presence of ghost employees.

"If he is going to be suspended and he is not in power, the witnesses will come out, those whose names were used on the payroll and received none or just very little," Ibay told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

No suspension order, however, was served until City Hall closed at 5 p.m.

Binay rose early yesterday and had his usual morning walk for an hour and a half. Though there were reports that the order suspending him and the entire Makati City Council was going to be issued that day, the 63-year-old Binay followed the same routine he had been used to since 1987.

After his walk, he took care of engagements on his calendar, had lunch with media, and indulged in a quick game of badminton before resuming his work at City Hall.

"Everything's normal. I still make the usual rounds of the barangays. I still maintain a 100 percent attendance record at City Hall, and I can still sleep soundly at night," Binay told reporters.

Stricter security measures were imposed Thursday at the impressive 22-story City Hall built under his term when news spread about Binay's imminent suspension.

But he said the new arrangements were implemented because of threats to his life.

Brillante's complaint alleged he found that "some of the names" on a list given to him by concerned Makati employees "are not actually and physically working" inside City Hall.

Binay asked Brillante to submit a bill of particulars that would specify the names of alleged nonworking employees. "How can you contend the probability of an offense when you can't pinpoint the offense?" said the mayor, a human rights lawyer during the martial law years.

Meanwhile, the DILG said Makati City Hall's new security arrangements were too rash. Lawyer Wencelito Andanar, DILG undersecretary for local government, said they had not received any order suspending Binay, a leader of the United Opposition.

"As far as the DILG is concerned, Jejomar Binay is still the mayor," said Brian Yamsuan, DILG assistant secretary for public affairs and department spokesperson. "If he is confident that the case against him has no merit, then he has nothing to fear."

METROBRIEFS

Protection for priests

FOLLOWING reports that five Aglipayan priests have been getting death threats, local authorities were ordered to provide security measures for the clergy assigned in their areas. National Capital Regional Police Office Chief Director General Reynaldo Varilla in a memorandum had directed all district directors "to get in touch with and assess security threats on all Aglipayan priests." Included in the order was providing police protection for the priests. The order stemmed from a recent incident where another Aglipayan bishop was killed barely a week after Bishop Alberto Ramento was found dead inside the rectory of the San Sebastian Parish in Tarlac City last Oct. 3. The latest victim was Fr. Dionisio Guingging, who was shot and stabbed to death by still unidentified assailants wearing bonnets in Purok, Sunkis, Barangay Bajao, Tago, Surigao del Sur. the motives for the two killings are still unknown.

Nancy C. Carvajal

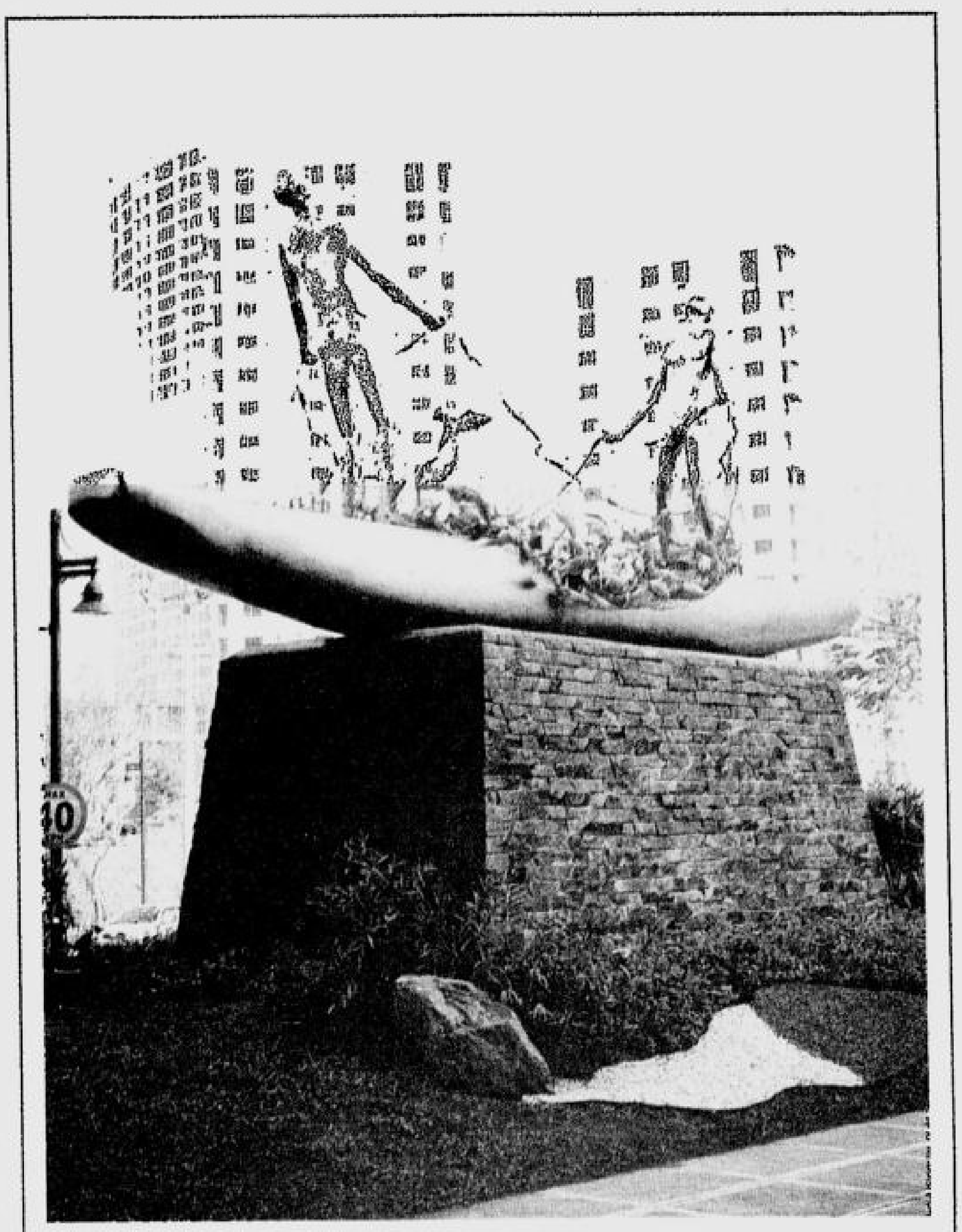
Mandaluyong exams

AT LEAST 426 casual employees of Mandaluyong City who are yet to get their Civil Service Commission (CSC) eligibilities are all set for the Oct. 22 career service professional examination after Mayor Neptali M. Gonzales II sponsored their examination and review session fees. City administrator Ernesto Victorino said the holding of the free tests was part of the mayor's commitment to ensure the welfare of the employees, one of the priorities of the Gonzales administration. Last week, six review classes have been conducted for the employees. Sixteen city school teachers specializing in English, Mathematics, Filipino and Social Studies are in charge of the review classes.

End of road

AS PART of its drive against illegal drugs, police arrested nine persons in a buy-bust operation before dawn yesterday in Signal Village, Taguig City. Senior Insp. Eufronio Obong Jr. of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force identified the suspects as Alejandro Palma, 42; Jervy Escaro, 20; Romeo Salmingo, 22; Guillermo Sigura, 37; Eduardo Grau, 20; Lourdes Castillo, 42; Ivy Aragon, 21; Rodolfo David, 30 and a minor. Five sachets of shabu were recovered from the suspects.

Jocelyn R. Uy



RICH HARVEST

These metal figures, pausing in the midst of a bounty of fish to thank the Almighty, are the latest sculptures in the public art series of Bonifacio Global City. Noted for the gracefulness of the figures and the illusion of motion captured by fish trying to jump out of the net, the sculpture by Ferdie Cacnio is rendered in bronze and brass, mediums that are intrinsically difficult to shape.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPWH bows down to QC court order on billboard

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS and Highways will comply with the temporary restraining order issued by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court stopping it from dismantling a billboard owned by the advertising firm DDBS Advertising Unlimited.

The firm earlier asked the court to stop the DPWH from dismantling one of its billboards, saying that none of its outdoor advertisements were damaged by Typhoon "Milenyo" or had injured anyone. It also said the DPWH violated the company's right to property.

The TRO issued by the Quezon City court only covers the billboard on Site 3 of the property leased from the Social Security System located beside the GMA-Kamuning MRT station.

DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the filing of a case would be a chance to discuss the legal issues regarding the dismantling of billboards.

"We interpret this move as an occasion for the Court to evaluate the legal issues involved as it even made a qualification that the Court's action should not be construed as an indication of its sentiments or inclination regarding the petitioner's application for a writ of injunction," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Ebdane also said that because of the massive traffic jams caused by the drive to tear down hazardous and illegal billboards, the DPWH would limit the hours for dismantling the ads in order not to add to the rush hour traffic.

The DPWH would only dismantle billboards from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, and, if the weather permits, during the late evening, Ebdane said.

The removal of billboards, which is ongoing along Edsa including the Metro Rail Transit line, has caused traffic flow to slow down in some areas because the equipment and personnel involved in the operation has taken up road space. President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the removal of structures that violate the law and were threats to public safety.

Losing sleep over a problem

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'D LIKE TO MAKE A CONFESSION. I'VE been losing some sleep over a big problem I have had lately. The burden is too much for me to handle.

Nope, it's not my tiff with my erstwhile close friend, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who has filed several libel cases against me and my brothers Raffy and Erwin, as well as my publisher and editors at the INQUIRER and Bandera.

My problem concerns the condition of a quadriplegic, Ronald "Jeff" Quesada, who is now languishing at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa.

Jeff's arms and legs are completely paralyzed. He can't even go to the bathroom without the help of at least two people carrying his deadweight of about 150 lbs.

Jeff was convicted of rape by Bulacan Regional Trial Court Judge Andres Soriano. How the good judge arrived at the decision is beyond comprehension. He should have dismissed the case against Jeff outright.

If Jeff can't move his arms and legs, how could he have raped his alleged victim?

Jeff's physical therapist, Melvin Maramot, testified in court that it was impossible for his patient to have committed rape. But Judge Soriano disregarded Maramot's testimony.

Even NBP guards, whom I will not name for obvious reasons, are laughing at the judge.

One of them told me that If all our judges were like Soriano, a lot of people would go to the mountains to join the rebels.

Remember, those words came from a prison employee who has been rubbing elbows with prisoners or hardened criminals. He could not make heads or tails why Jeff was convicted.

Why do I keep writing about Jeff? To jolt the Court of Appeals justices handling Jeff's appeal into expediting their decision.

I suggest that the justices visit Jeff at the NBP and see his condition first hand. I'm 100 percent sure they will exonerate Jeff.

If the magistrates in other countries know about Jeff's condition and why he was sent to prison, they will surely wonder about how the Philippine justice system works.

To prevent that from happening, the appellate court justices working on Jeff's case should see it fit to expedite handing down a favorable decision.

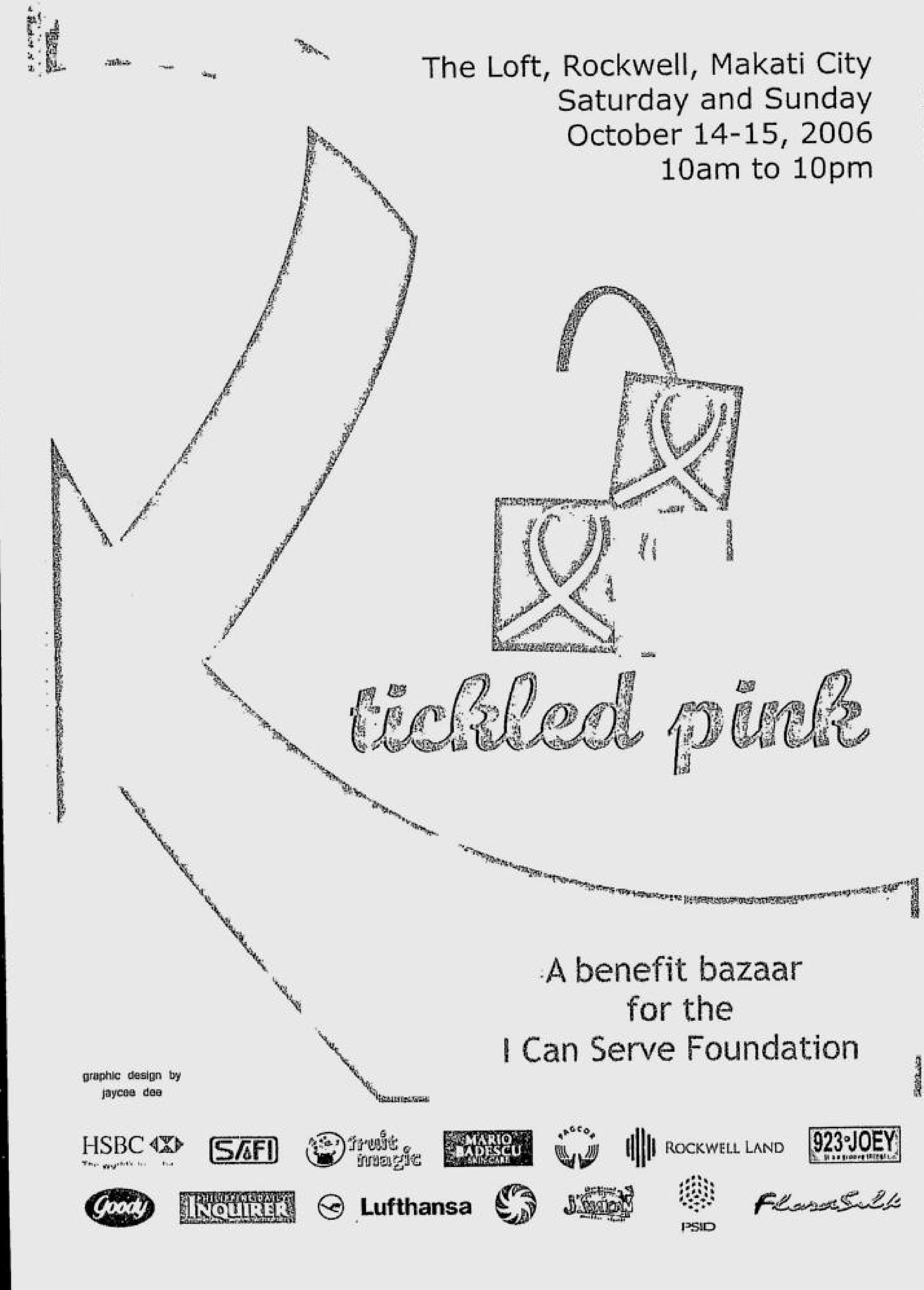
If the Court of Appeals thinks I'm interfering in their work and holds me in contempt, I am willing to go to jail for an indefinite period to dramatize Jeff's plight.

* * *

Puerto Princesa City has become a convention city five years after suffering a tourism setback with the attack on Dos Palmas resort hotel, one of the islands within the city limits.

Last week, Puerto Princesa hotels were bulging at the seams with more than 2,000 participants attending a convention on cooperatives held in the city. The hotels could not accommodate all the participants.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn had to ask a domestic inter-island ship docked at the city's piers to billet participants for the duration of the convention. Congratulations, mayor!



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Taguig seeks land for residents

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE TAGUIG CITY GOVERNMENT IS APpealing to the Department of National Defense to help residents with housing problems by allotting them at least five hectares of the agency's 40-hectare property set aside for the expansion of the Libingan ng mga Bayani Shrines in Fort Bonifacio.

At least 300 residents of Sitio Tago-Tago in Barangay Western Bicutan affected by demolition operations on Thursday are still clueless over where they could find temporary shelter.

Some were still in the area yesterday, scrounging for scrap metals and pieces of wood that used to be part of th [illegible] ers refused to leave, saying they had nowhere else to go.

"Mayor Freddie Tinga is working out an arrangement with the DND and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to allocate a portion of their land so that we can put up quarters for these families," Peewee Vasquez, area manager of the Fort Bonifacio Satellite Government Center, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

She added that Taguig would be able to build homes for at least 1,800 residents in four communities affected by the Libingan expansion plan if their request for the five hectares of land is approved by the national

US gears for protracted war in Iraq

WASHINGTON—WITH VIOLENCE SPIKING IN Iraq and no end in sight, the United States is uneasily adjusting for a longer, more difficult fight that could tie down US ground forces for four more years.

General George Casey, the top US commander in Iraq, served notice in Washington this week that levels of violence there have never been higher and are likely to stay high for some time.

Gunmen massacred nine staff members of a Baghdad satellite television firm Thursday, another day of car bombings and killings that have intensified during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"We assume it will still get worse before it gets better," said Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the US military spokesperson in Baghdad. Bringing the violence under control, Casey said here Wednesday, "is going to be a long-term process. It's not going to be something that we're going to get done quickly." The bleak outlook is fueling intense election year pressures in the United States for a change in course in Iraq.

With an increasingly bipartisan clamor for an exit strategy, President George W. Bush said at a press conference Wednesday that he agreed completely with a top Republican senator that "if the plan is now not working … America needs to adjust." Bush said he told Casey he strongly supported his plan to pacify Baghdad.

"But if you come into this office and say we need to do something differently, I support you. If you need more troops, I support you. If you're going to devise a new strategy, we're with you," Bush said.

Casey told reporters the current strategy of gradually shifting the security burden from US troops to Iraqi forces, which now number some 300,000, was still a "valid framework." But he acknowledged that he has had to shelve plans to draw down US troops from Iraq and instead keep a larger-than-expected 142,000-member force to restore order in Baghdad.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the military "is looking at these various sensitivities. And we're looking around corners up ahead and asking ourselves how we would do things." A key question now facing General Casey is whether to bring in more US troops amid fears that the sectarian violence is getting worse, not better, with dozens of bodies showing signs of torture turning up on the streets of Baghdad every day. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

No Guantanamo closure

WASHINGTON—The United States brushed aside a call Thursday from its main ally Britain to close the military detention camp for terrorist suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett called the controversial prison camp "unacceptable" on human rights grounds and "ineffective" in the war on terror, and said it should be closed. State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack, while acknowledging that "we don't want Guantanamo open forever," said the prison was still needed to house "some very dangerous people" including those who planned the Sept. 11, 2001 al-Qaida attacks on New York and Washington. ***AFP***

France faces Turkish fury

PARIS—France tried Thursday to calm an uproar in Turkey sparked when the French parliament approved a bill that would make it a crime to deny that the 1915-1917 massacres of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks constituted genocide. A furious Ankara—which strongly rejects the use of the term genocide in the sensitive Armenian issue—slammed the vote, saying France had dealt "a heavy blow" to longstanding bilateral relations. But French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin tried to distance his government from the bill, which had been introduced by the opposition Socialist Party, saying it was "not a good thing to legislate on issues of history and of memory." ***AFP***

Iraq TV station stormed

BAGHDAD—Gunmen, some wearing police uniforms, stormed a new satellite television station on Thursday and killed 11 employees, several of whom were asleep after working late for the station's debut on Saturday, employees and witnesses said. It was the most deadly attack on the Iraqi media since the 2003 invasion. The motive for the attack, which came on a day of scattered violence around the country, remained unclear. Several employees said they knew of no threats against the station, Al Shabbiya, or its founder and director, Abdul Rahim Nasralla al-Shameri, who was killed along with five staff members and five guards. ***New York Times News Service***

Israel kills 9 Palestinians

GAZA—Israel killed nine Palestinians, at least three of them Hamas militants, in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, pressing a nearly four-month offensive launched after a soldier was abducted, witnesses said. Hamas's armed wing responded by firing six makeshift rockets into Israel. No one was wounded. The rockets were the first fired by Hamas militants in more than a month but other militant groups have kept up such attacks. Hamas controls the Palestinian government and has rebuffed international pressure to recognize Israel, renounce violence and abide by interim peace deals. ***Reuters***

No presidential ambition

WASHINGTON—Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, considered a strong potential contender for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, said on Thursday he would not run for the White House. Warner, a moderate Democrat who left the governor's office early this year with extremely high approval ratings, said the surprise decision was not based on a political calculation about whether he could win the presidency. "While politically this appears to be the right time for me to take the plunge, at this point I want to have a real life," Warner said in a statement. ***Reuters***

Tens of millions of Asians living in poverty

PARIS—THE NUMBER OF Asians living in extreme poverty may be tens of millions higher than thought because estimates fail to factor in health-care costs, a study published in next Saturday's issue of The Lancet says.

The internationally accepted threshold of absolute poverty, established by the World Bank, is income of one dollar per head per day—to be precise, 1.08 dollars a day, a figure adjusted to represent purchasing power in 1993, when the benchmark was set down.

But, say a Dutch-led research team, this formula takes into account food, clothing and shelter but not out-of-pocket health-care costs, which can represent a big chunk of income for the poor.

They reassessed measurements of poverty in 11 low-to-middle income countries; Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Together, these countries account for 79 percent of the population in Asia, and 48 percent of the world's population.

When the local costs of health care were factored in, an additional 78 million people in these countries—2.7 percent of their population—fell below the one-dollar-a-day threshold.

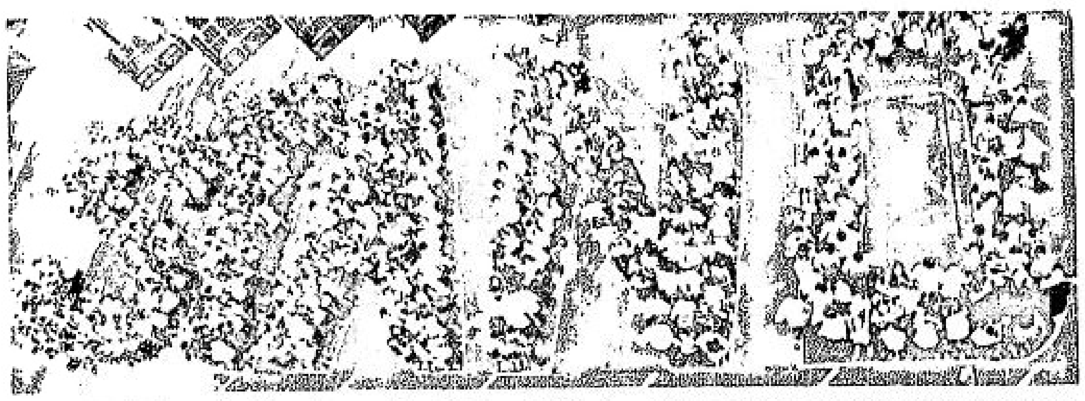
The burden was highest in Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and China, and lowest in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

"Our findings … lend support to qualitative studies suggesting that health-care payments cause impoverishment," say the authors, led by Eddy van Doorslaer, a doctor of health policy at the Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam.

They caution, though, that "careful and controlled evaluations" are needed before governments set down plans to reduce the health cost for the very poor.

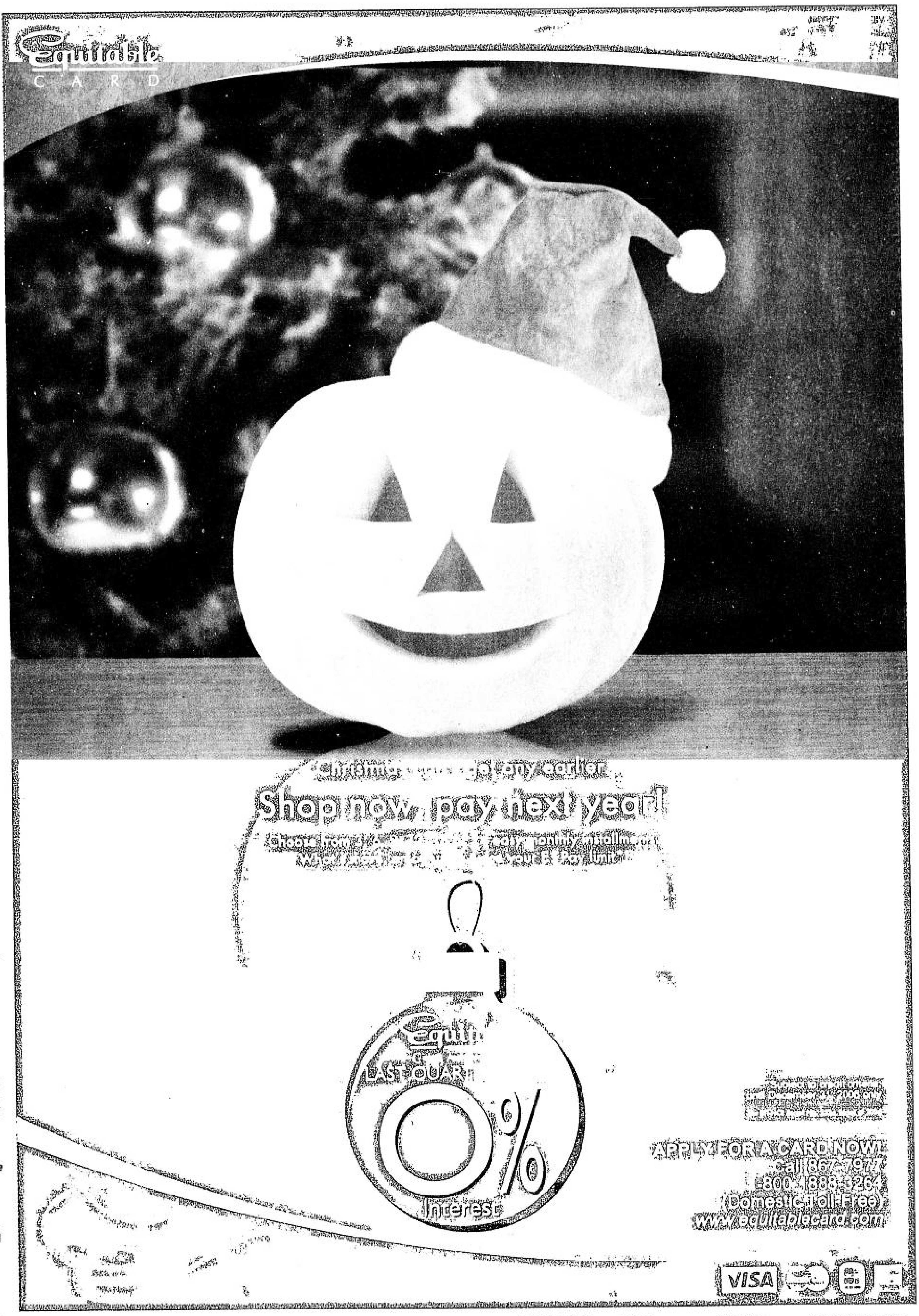
They illustrate the case of drugs, which are typically the biggest out-of-pocket health cost facing poverty-stricken households.

Simply making these drugs free is not by itself a solution, the authors note. If free drugs or the medical support to prescribe them are not available, people end up buying them privately or resort to self-medication, which can be useless or dangerous. *AFP*



STUDENTS from the New International School of Thailand form a human chain spelling the words "stand up" in Bangkok, Thailand. It was an attempt to set a Guinness World Record for the greatest number of people to stand up against poverty.

AP



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LEE SUPER PLAZA
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN nears agreement on North Korea

BEIJING—UN POWERS MOVED CLOSER ON Friday to slapping sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear test after Washington, responding to China's concerns, proposed a resolution that specifically rules out military force.

"I don't want to say we've reached agreement yet, but many, many of the significant differences have been closed, very much to our satisfaction," US Ambassador John Bolton told reporters.

North Korea has said it would consider tough UN measures as tantamount to a declaration of war and remained unrepentant in the face of international condemnation.

Washington's "hostile policy toward the DPRK has gone beyond the tolerance limit and a dangerous atmosphere of confrontation reminiscent of that on the eve of war is now prevailing on the Korean Peninsula," its state news agency, KCNA, said.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is the North's official name.

As the UN Security Council neared agreement on steps hitting North Korea's nuclear and missile programs with economic and weapons sanctions and a ban on luxury goods, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun held talks in Beijing with Chinese leaders on their isolated and defiant neighbor.

"Both leaders supported the UN Security Council taking necessary and appropriate measures," Song Min-soon, a South Korean national security adviser, told reporters, without specifying what those measures should be.

China and South Korea have more sway over Pyongyang than any other countries, but the North's announcement on Monday that it had conducted a nuclear test has shaken their policies of political and economic engagement.

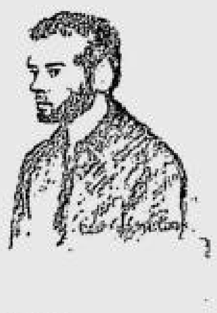
China and Russia, which both hold veto power on the Security Council, balked at some of the tough measures in an early draft resolution, forcing a US compromise draft that could go to a vote as early as Saturday.

Diplomats said the fate of the new draft largely depends on Beijing, which was unusually critical of North Korea after the nuclear test, but which is also anxious to avoid driving North, with its 1.2 million-strong army, further into a corner.

The revised UN draft eliminates a blanket arms embargo but bans heavy conventional weapons. *Reuters*

THE CITIGROUP building in New York was allegedly one of the targets of a foiled bomb plot by terrorists. AP

Briton bares bomb plot vs NYSE, IMF



BAROT AP

LONDON—A BRITON arrested amid a massive US security alert two years ago admitted in a London court on Thursday to plotting to blow up financial targets in the United States and carry out "dirty bomb" attacks in Britain.

Dhiren Barot, a Muslim convert, admitted to plotting to blow up the headquarters of the New York Stock Exchange, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Citigroup and Prudential in Washington, New Jersey and New York.

"Explosions at these premises were clearly designed to kill as many people as possible," said prosecuting lawyer Edmund Lawson.

Amid tight security at Woolwich Crown Court in South London, Barot pleaded guilty to conspiracy to murder and prosecutors outlined the details of his confession. Barot, looking relaxed and typing on a lap-top, spoke only to affirm his guilt.

Apart from the US plot, he planned to hit British targets in a conspiracy called the "Gas Limos Project," which "involved parking three limos with gas cylinders with explosives and detonating them in underground car parks," Lawson said.

And he admitted another plan to detonate at least one "dirty bomb" contaminated with radiological material in Britain. The prosecution said Barot claimed the dirty bomb was not designed to kill but "rather to cause injury, fear, terror and chaos." Under Britain's tight media laws, the judge ordered that further details of the conspiracy not be reported to prevent prejudicing the trials of any future defendants. *Reuters*

Murdered Russian journalist described torture in last report

POLITKOVSKAYA

MOSCOW—THE LAST article written by murdered Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya was an account from a Chechen man who said police passed electric shocks through his fingers until he confessed to terrorism.

Politkovskaya's Novaya Gazeta newspaper on Thursday published the article she was working on when she was shot on the staircase of her apartment building on Oct. 7. Investigators say her murder was linked to her reporting.

The murder of Politkovskaya, an ardent critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin and of Kremlin policies in Chechnya, brought international condemnation. Her supporters said it showed Russia was failing to safeguard freedom of speech.

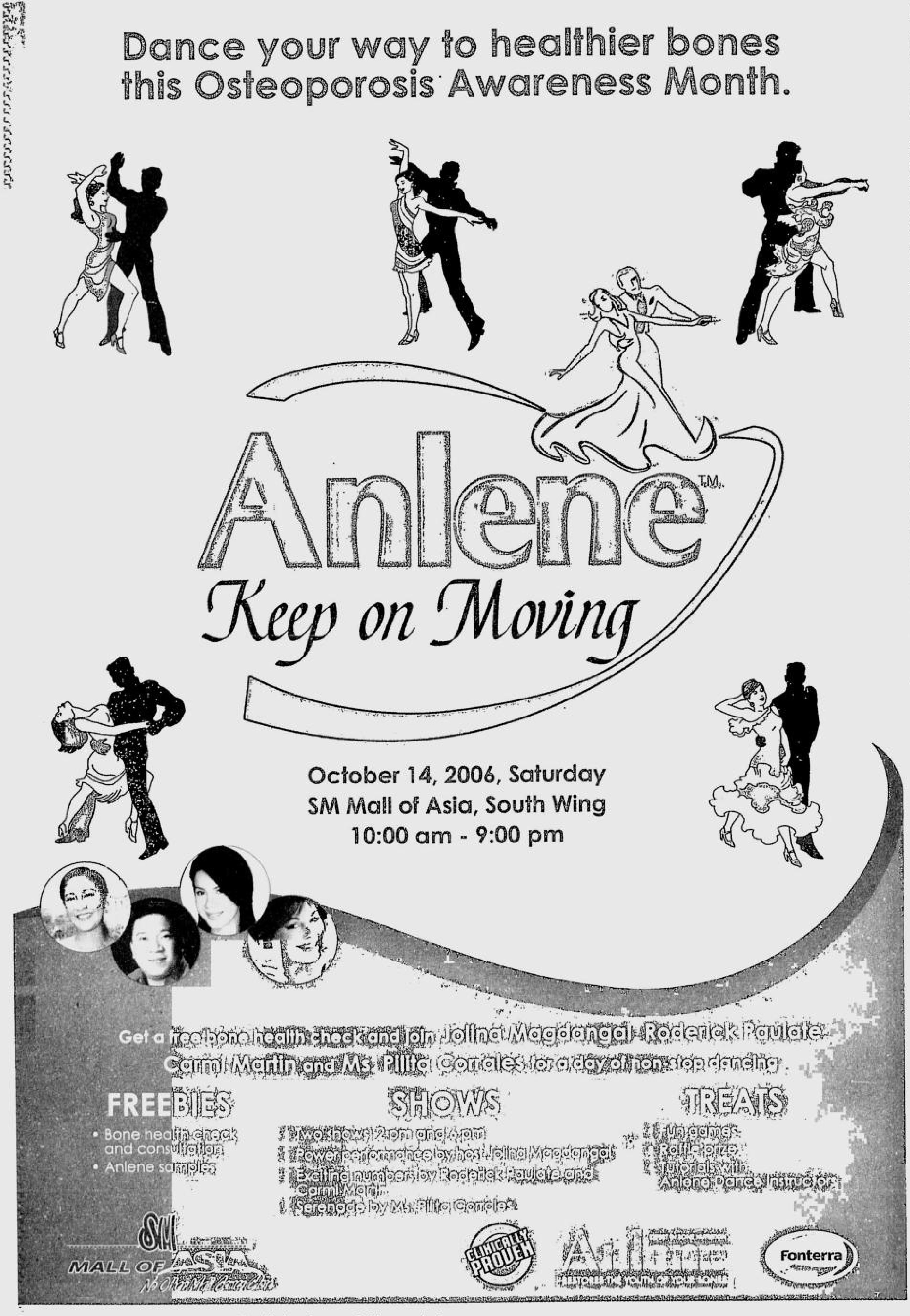
It also re-focussed attention on Chechnya, where human rights groups say Russian forces and their local allies are conducting a campaign of indiscriminate violence under the cover of fighting an anti-Moscow insurgency.

A senior prosecutor said on Thursday there was "progress" in the search to find Politkovskaya's killer.

"I have information which merits attention," Interfax news agency quoted Deputy Prosecutor General Alexander Buksman as saying. He refused to comment on newspaper reports police were holding a man who confessed to killing the journalist.

Politkovskaya's unfinished last article reproduces a letter from a Chechen man called Beslan Gadayev who writes that he was extradited from Ukraine and handed over to law enforcement officers in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

"I swore I had killed no one," the letter read. "They said: 'No, you have killed.'" Gadayev wrote that he was punched twice in the face and then handcuffed and suspended from a length of pipe between two filing cabinets in an investigator's office. *Reuters*



Dance your way to healthier bones this Osteoporosis Awareness Month.

Anlene™ Keep on Moving

October 14, 2006, Saturday
SM Mall of Asia, South Wing
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Get a free bone health check and join Jolina Magdangal, Roderick Paulate, Carmi Martin and Ms. Pilita Corrales for a day of non-stop dancing

FREEBIES
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- Serenade by Ms. Pilita Corrales

TREATS
- Fun games
- Raffle prize
- Tutorials with Anlene Dance Instructors

SM MALL OF ASIA
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Health Leaders on Osteoporosis Awareness

October has been designated as Osteoporosis Month. Osteoporosis is a serious disease which people have taken for granted, thinking it only hits the elderly. Dubbed as the "silent epidemic", osteoporosis has no symptoms. It often goes undiagnosed and ignored until a fracture occurs. Yet osteoporosis can be debilitating and, at it's worst, deadly.

Worldwide osteoporosis numbers are growing at an alarming rate. Approximately 1.6 million hip fractures occur each year and by 2050 could reach 4.5 to 6.3 million. One-third of the patients with hip fractures die of complications and one-third are unable to move without assistance, increasing medical costs and need of care. Incredibly, osteoporosis will soon overtake heart disease as the single biggest global health threat. In the Philippines, it was estimated that 60% of all female admissions over 50 in a major Manila hospital specializing in bone ailments are due to osteoporotic fractures.

We encourage every Filipino to start taking their bone health seriously and take steps that will promote healthy, strong bones.

We salute Fonterra Brands Philippines for being at the forefront of research and consumer education on bone health. Its continuous commitment to building healthier and stronger bones is essential to building healthier, fuller, and longer lives for all of us.

Dr Florante P. Gonzaga
President
Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Rodolfo F. Florentino, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman
Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mauresmo enters Kremlin quarterfinals

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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Mets trip Cards in series opener/A25

Django sets up Orcollo clash

RODEL ROTONI

DJANGO Bustamante: In the hunt for the P500,000 champions' purse.

DEFENDING CHAMPION Francisco "Django" Bustamante and teen sensation Filipino-Japanese Mike Takayama hurdled their respective rivals yesterday to top the winner's brackets and book their seat in the semifinal round of the 2006 RP SMB 9-Ball Tour Open at the Casino Filipino in Paranaque City.

Crowd favorite and Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes took an unexpected exit following a 9-5 loss to former AZBilliards Rookie of the Year Ronato Alcano.

The 34-year-old Alcano proceeded to nip Marlon Manalo, 9-8, only to fall prey to unheralded Leonardo Didal, 9-7, in their battle for a semis seat.

Earlier, Bustamante beat Didal (9-4) to join the 18-year-old Takayama as waiting semifinalists.

World Pool League titlist Dennis Orcollo thwarted Carlo Biado, 9-7, in a late match last night to arrange a semis showdown with Bustamante.

Didal and Takayama meet in the other semifinal tussle.

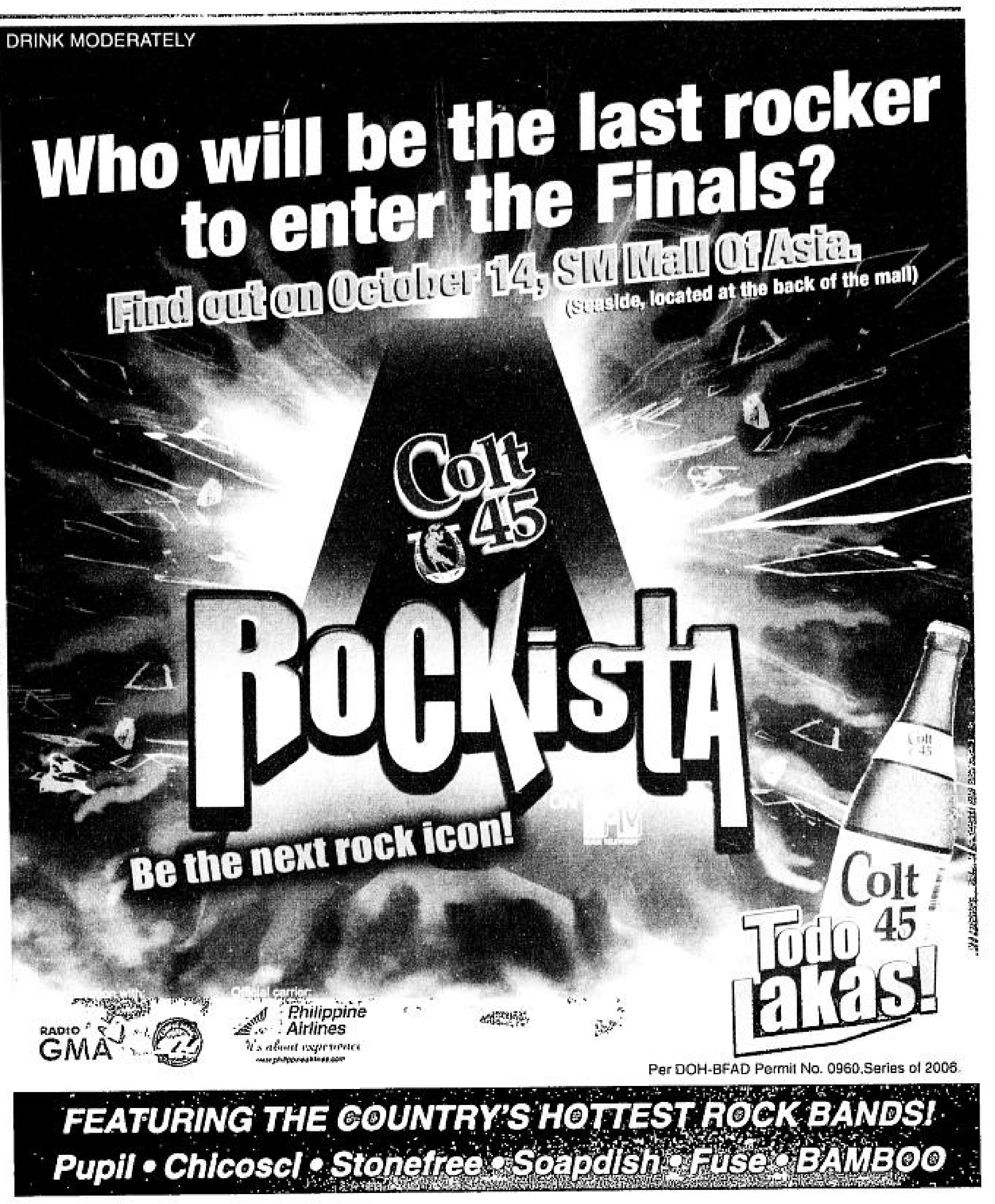
"Medyo nakahinga na tayo, at least pasok na tayo sa semis." said Bustamante, who earlier beat John Salazar (9-4), Russian Petiza (9-5) and bosom buddy Reyes (9-1) late Thursday.

Takayama, whose mother died two years ago and only saw his Japanese father when he was three years old, said his preparation for the event bore fruit. Takayama bested Japanese ace Yusuueke Kuruda (9-5), Gandy Valle (9-7) and 2004 World 9-ball champion Alex Pagulayan (9-2).

Takayama's manager, Edwin Reyes, in close cooperation with Martin Misa said they are planning to send Takayama abroad, especially in Japan.

"Double purpose na din bukod sa makakakuha siya ng experience sa international pool ay pagkakataon na din niyang makita ang father niyang hapon." said Reyes.

Alcano nipped Manalo, 9-8, last night to gain a crack at Didal. *Marlon Bernardino*



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Lions, Warriors overpower foes, gain Final Four

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SAN BEDA RED LIONS GOT THE JOB done early this time to clinch a Final Four slot in the Collegiate Champions League.

After barely winning their first outing, the Lions zoomed to an early double-digit lead and sent the University of Visayas Lancers packing with an 84-68 rout yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

Nigerian Sam Ekwe, the NCAA Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year awardee, showed no effects from a hyper-extended knee with a sensational performance. He had 12 points, 23 rebounds, four blocks and three steals.

"I'm glad we're back," said Lions coach Koy Banal. "But there are little things that we have to work on. We sometimes force the issue."

The University of the East Warriors also cruised to the semifinals after blasting the Philippine Christian Dolphins, 74-55, in the first game.

"We started sluggish, we were out of focus because of the PBL, but we picked up in the second quarter," said coach Dindo Pumaren.

The Warriors will face the winner of the quarterfinals battle between the Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Mapua Cardinals at 4 p.m. today.

The scores:

First Game

UE 74—Gregorio 14, Arellano 13, Bandaying 10, Canizares 8, Borboran 8, Espiritu 7, Briones 7, Labagala 6, Martinez 1, Lingganay 0, Thiele 0.

PCU 55—Castro 12, Belga 12, Navarro 10, Garrido 4, Amparado 4, Salem 4, Chien 3, Graham 3, Hermosa 2, Santos 1.

Quarters: 15-11, 36-23, 49-42, 74-55

Second Game

SAN BEDA 84—Escobal 16, Gamalinda 14, Ekwe 12, Aljamal 9, Menor 9, Angeles 7, Tecon 7, Antonio 4, Taganas 4, Maggay 2, Evangelista 0, Taupa 0.

UV 68—Lanete 22, Rodriguez 22, Berame 4, Sendrijas 4, Denison 4, Arda 2, Diputado 2, Canoy 0, Lasala 0, Omolon 0, Esperat 0, Manique 0, Pitogo 0.

Quarters: 23-10, 40-27, 66-44, 84-68

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Letran vs JRU
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs Mapua

SAN BEDA'S Yousif Aljamar (third from left) is pinned by Jay Rodriguez and Rino Berame of the UV Green Lancers as teammate Ogie Menor (left) tries to shoot during their game yesterday. ROMY HOMILLADA

China golf: Juvic, Frankie bounce back

SANYA, CHINA—GERALD ROSALES AND TONY Lascuña easily made it to the weekend play of the Volkswagen Masters-China even as Juvic Pagunsan and Frankie Miñoza bounced back with identical three-under-par 69s Friday.

Rosales and Lascuña matched par 72 at the Yalong Bay Golf Club to reach the halfway mark of the $300,000 Asian Tour event with a 4-under 140 total, good for a tie for 15th with six others.

Pagunsan moved up just a stroke behind his compatriots at 141 while Miñoza, who is taking a break from the Japan Tour, posted a 142 total.

Jerome Delariarte also broke par with a 71 to make the cut-off at 145, but Angelo Que, Artemio Murakami and Cookie La'O failed to advance.

Que finished at 143 (73-73), Murakami wound up at 150 (76-74) and La'O had a five-over total going into his final hole at presstime.

Defending champion Retief Goosen of South Africa shot a 7-under 65 and threatened to run away with the title with a 15-under 129 total, three up on 2005 US Open champion Michael Campbell of New Zealand (68) and Lu Wen-teh of Taiwan (69), who were at 132. *AFP*

Nat'l pugs see action in Tondo Go for Gold

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST AMATEUR BOXERS BATtle for excellence in today's Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines-Touch Mobile Go for Gold at Plaza Morga near the Sto. Nino Church in Tondo, Manila. No less than seven members of the RP team seeing action in the annual 27th Tammer Cup in Tampere, Finland, will join the event credited for discovering talents from the grassroots. "Throughout the years, Go for Gold has been successfull in finding future champions," said Manny T. Lopez, a resident of Tondo and president of Abap. "Abap brings to historic Tondo a star-studded cast of nationals who are going to thrill boxing fans." The boxfest is hosted by the Samahan ng mga Kagawad ng Sona 1 and supported by Pacific Heights. Olympians Harry Tanamor, Violito Payla and Romeo Brin head the nationals competing.

No Pacquiao knockdown, says Hamsho agent

A REPRESENTATIVE OF UNDEFEATED Swedish boxer Shadi Hamsho has belied reports coming out of Los Angeles that his ward was knocked down during a sparring session with Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao in Hollywood's Wild Card Gym recently.

"The article is not true. I was on hand and witnessed the sparring session," said Reidar Reidar, adding that the confirmation made by Filipino boxers Bobby Pacquiao and Gerry Peñalosa of the supposed knockdown was "a terrible lie."

"I talked to both fighters and neither said they made such a claim," Reidar said.

Dr. Ed De la Vega, who first penned the story in the website Philboxing.com, which was carried by the INQUIRER, could not be reached for comment at press time.

De la Vega had reported that it was the trio of Bobby Pacquiao, Gerry Peñalosa and Ernel Fontanilla who informed him of the knockdown. He said he was not around to take photos.

A call to Michael Koncz, Pacquiao's LA-based associate, was not returned.

Pacquiao's close Filipino associate Rex "Wakee" Salud said the GenSan fighter had not mentioned a knockdown he supposedly scored against Hamsho at the Wild Card gym.

Salud added that neither Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez also made mention of a knockdown, although the Filipino boxing manager said he also did not ask if there was a knockdown, and hence did not expect Pacquiao to talk about it.

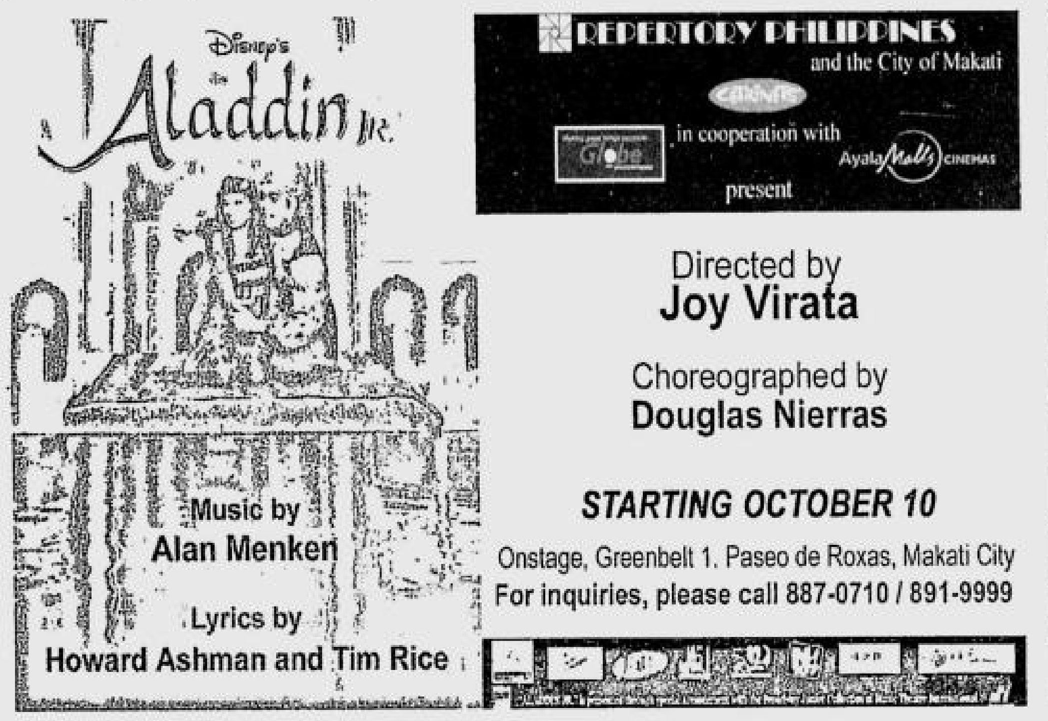
Pacquiao knocking down his sparmates in preparation for a big bout is a regular occurrence.

The former two-time world champion is training for his third fight against Mexico's Erik Morales on Nov. 18 in Las Vegas.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

Gallego tops Japan pool, wins P0.3M

JAPAN-BASED RAMIL Gallego topped the 2006 Hokuriku Open in Kanazawa City recently. Gallego, a native of Bacolod City, bested Yano Yuichi, 9-3, in the finals to clinch the top purse of P300,000 in the 200-man event. In the semifinal round, Gallego edged Satoshi Kawabata, 9-8, while Yuichi bested Hisashi Kusano, 9-7. It was Gallego's third title this year. He also topped the 2006 Astro Open in Kanagawa, Japan, and the SMB Asian 9-ball tour Bangkok leg in Thailand. *Marlon Bernardino*



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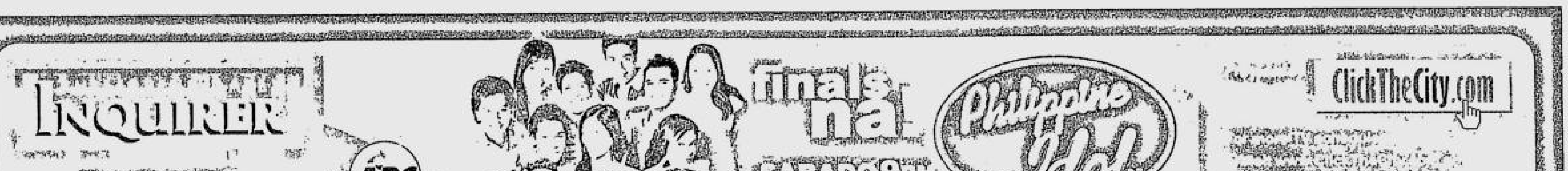

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AXN		Excess Baggage				AXN Shakedown		WRC 2006 Rally XS	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter (Season II)		Fear Factor (Season VI)		House (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Guinness World Records: 50 Years, 50 Records	
bTV				NBA Special		NBA Inside Stuff	NBA Jam	NBA Greatest Game				2006 Champs League Of Finals				2006 Champs League Of Finals			
Cartoon Network	Camp Lazlo	Baby Looney Tunes	Tom & Jerry Tales	The Woody Woodpecker Show				Pokemon/The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Pokemon		Yogi & The Invasion Of Space Bears/The Simpsons: Treehouse Of Horror/ Little Polar Bear: Tobias Totz	Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy (8:45 PM)	Gundam Seed Destiny		The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	Ben 10
Cinema One	Pangako Ikaw Lang				Palasabi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Sya				Mr. Suave				Vizconde Massacre 2				Missing Gun		
Cinemax		Dead Canaries (2:55 PM)			Commandments			Quick Change (5:55 PM)			Kiss And Tell (7:25 PM)			Taking Lives			Wonderland (10:45PM)		
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Bus. Traveller/ Global Office/ Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Living Golf/ Revealed/ MainSail/Art of Life	World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Bus. Traveller/ Global Office/ Global Challenge	CNN Presents/Quest	Next@CNN	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Bones		Prison Break		E-Ring		Under Suspicion			
Discovery Channel				History		Power Zone				Perfect Disaster		Deadliest Catch				A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Hannah Montana	American Dragon Yr 2	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Videos: 101 Dalmatians	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery/ Emperor's New Groove/ Kronk's New Groove	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Women's Pro Billiards '06		LPGA Golf Longs Drug Challenge 2nd Rd				MLB Cablo Series Game3						NFL Football: Steelers vs Chargers					
ETC		Everwood		Friends	Will & Grace	Veronica Mars		The O.C.		Beauty And The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Nanny 911		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land/ Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
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HBO	Entourage 11: [illegible] (2:25 PM)	New On The Big Screen In October	The Stepford Wives			Harriet The Spy (5:15 PM)				Daylight				Dominion: Prequel To The Exorcist				Six Feet Under 5: A Coat Of White Primer	
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High	Chrono Crusade	DNAngel	Forzal Mano	Love Hina	Super Doll Licca	G3	Voltes V Evolution	[illegible]				Shaman King	Street Fighter
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JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The D.L.	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	HGTV Special		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Email Live		Iron Chef America		Marga		How Do I Look		Style Star	E! Entertainment Special	
MTV Philippines	World Trade Center Movie Special	MTV Arena	Diary Of Busta Rhymes	MTV2 Presents: All That Rocks		MTV2 Presents: 2 Bit Daddy Yankee		Cribs	My Own	The Hills	8th & Ocean	MTV Live Kiwan		MTV Hits		MTV Hits		Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	MYXelaneous	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Amazing Moments		Relentless Enemies				Sea Hunters		About Asia		Ultimate Experience		Martial Arts Week		Martial Arts Week		No Borders	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Tayo Noo Pilipino	The Working President	The Final Say: ChaCha		Lakbayin Ang Magandang Pilipinas		Youth Voice-Debate		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz/ Carnaval Special: Danny Phantom/ Rugrats Pre-School Daze	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
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Star Movies	Beauty Shop			Rand Fire (4:15 PM)			Safe Men (5:45 PM)			Home Alone 3 (7:15 PM)				Guess Who?			Tomcats (10:45PM)		
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Mets trip Cards in series opener

NEW YORK—CARLOS BELTRAN'S TWO-RUN HOMER AND TOM GLAVINE'S superb pitching guided the New York Mets to a 2-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals in Game One of the best-of-seven National League Championship Series on Thursday.

Glavine and Cardinals starter Jeff Weaver battled through five quiet, scoreless innings at Shea Stadium that seemed to lull the sellout crowd of 56,311 at a game that was rescheduled following Wednesday's washout.

Beltran broke the silence with two outs in the sixth inning when he smacked a towering home run that clanged off the big scoreboard in right field and scored Paul Lo Duca ahead of him.

Game Two of the series is in New York on Friday with Cardinals ace starter Chris Carpenter opposing Mets rookie John Maine.

The eventual winners will go on to represent the National League in the World Series against the team that emerges from the AL Championship between the Oakland Athletics and the Detroit Tigers, who lead that series, 2-0.

Glavine shut the Cards down on four hits over seven scoreless innings for the win. Guillermo Mota and stopper Billy Wagner then combined for two hitless innings as the Mets played some great defense behind the stingy pitching.

Weaver matched Glavine's excellence before Beltran's blast, estimated at 430 feet.

The right-hander, who came to the Cardinals in a mid-season trade with the Los Angeles Angels, allowed the Mets only one hit over the first five frames.

"In a game like tonight I knew I had to match Weaver," Glavine told reporters. "We had to look for one crack in the armor and Carlos got that for us."

The game-winning shot came after Weaver had retired the first two batters in the sixth. Lo Duca bounced a single to left to set the stage for Beltran, who woke up the crowd when he connected on a fastball down the middle.

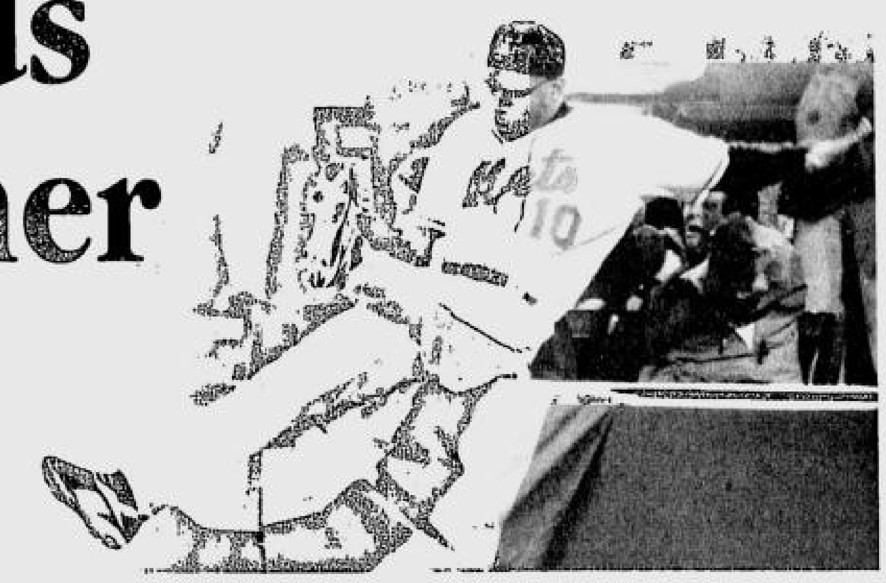
Mets manager Willie Randolph praised the pitching of Glavine, who threw six shutout innings against the Dodgers to win Game Two of the first-round playoff series.

"Tommy's performance was outstanding," Randolph said. "You always feel real confident when you give him the ball."

St. Louis manager Tony La Russa felt bad for his hurler."There's no way to suggest that he's a losing pitcher. He was equally as good. Jeff was outstanding."

The game moved briskly over the first half as two unexpected double plays killed off early threats for the Cards.

Before the game a moment of silence was observed to honor former Negro League player and major league coach Buck O'Neal, who died last week at age 94, and Yankee pitcher Cory Lidle, who was killed on Wednesday when his small plane crashed into an apartment high rise in Manhattan. *Reuters*



METS' Endy Chavez falls into the fans while chasing a foul ball during the seventh inning.

Magnolia gets brightest from UAAP, NCAA

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT WAS AN EASY DECISION.

"We've always wanted him," said team manager Peter Martin after Magnolia Ice Cream selected Far Eastern University standout Jonas Villanueva as the top overall pick during the PBL Rookie Draft yesterday.

"He'll be a starting guard for sure. His leadership is going to be a factor. Coach Koy (Banal) always had in mind that Villanueva will start for us."

Three varsity stars from the University of the East Warriors, selected in succession, will also debut in the PBL Silver Cup next month for different teams.

Versatile forward Mark Borboran went to Hapee, Bonbon Custodio to Magnolia and Kelvin Gregorio to Sista.

"We're very excited with our rookies," said Martin after Magnolia also formalized its tieup with 2005 NCAA champion San Beda Red Lions, who also have Banal as coach.

Magnolia elevated several San Beda key players including Pong Escobal, Rogemar Menor and Jay-R Taganas.

Four more Interclub badminton finalists up

THE SECOND BATCH OF FOUR QUALIFIERS for the grand finals will be known in the second elimination leg of the Battle of the Courts: The Interclub Badminton Championships today and tomorrow at the Club 650 courts in Libis, Quezon City.

Valle Verde leads an 11-team roster for the weekend tourney presented by Rush Fitness Water, Mizuno Badminton and INQUIRER Badminton.

Valle is in Group 2 with Celebrity Sports Club, Manila Polo Club, Raq4cock Badminton Zone, Villamor Air Base Badminton Center and Smash N'Fun Badminton Court.

Group 2 is made up of host Club 650, Badminton Central Makati Inc., Ace Badminton Courts, Excel Badminton Center and Hardicourt Badminton Center.

Excel and Hardicourt are teams from Pampanga.

The top two teams in each group will automatically qualify for the grand finals but they will still fight it out for the seedings and the leg title.

The Battle of the Courts is also sponsored by Duty Free Philippines, BSI medicated spray, Unilever and Gerflor Taraflex as the official mat. Radio partners are Wave 89.1 and 92.3 Joey.

From Club 650, the Battle moves to Las Piñas Badminton Center on Oct. 28-29 with another 11 teams participating.

Already in the grand finals are Peregrine, Centro Atletico, Philippine National Police and Alabang Racquet Club after qualifying in the first leg at the Playground courts last weekend. Peregrine shocked Centro for the leg title.

Mindworks is the organizing team for this year's Battle which features players of top clubs in Metro Manila and the provinces.

NOELLE Nikki Zoleta: Left to carry RP's fight. EDWIN BACASMAS

Korean, Thai reach finals; Zoleta gains crown berth

KOREAN NOH SANG-WOO barged into the boys' singles final following a 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0 upset win over Filipino top seed Francis Casey Alcantara yesterday in the Asian 14-Under series at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center outdoor court in Pasig City.

In the girls' singles, top seed Filipino Noelle Nikki Zoleta downed third seed Korean Lee Se-Won, 6-0, 6-4, to advance to the final .

Zoleta, who competed in the World Juniors Championships in Indonesia last May, will face second seed Korean Han Na-lee, who rallied past unseeded Ma. Regina Santiago, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

The 14-year-old Noh from Ansung City used a variety of shots to beat Alcantara, who was bothered by an upset stomach in the second set and leg cramps in the third set.

Noh, ranked No. 9 back home, shoots for the title today against third seed Nuttorn Tanchainant of Thailand, who scored a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over seventh seed Filipino Jose Lorenzo Ferrer.

Tanchainant, Thailand's top 14-under player, won the Bangladesh first leg over Noh, 7-6, 6-2. Noh captured the second leg title over compatriot Kim Ki-hoon.

In the boys' doubles, the top seed Korean combination of Kim and Noh downed the Japanese pair of Takamasa Takizawa and Rikuto Furuta, 6-0, 6-3, to advance in the semifinals against third seeds Roman Floreza and Alcantara, 6-1, 6-3, winners over Indonesians Rayadi Surya and David Wilson.

Other winners were second seeds Akio Sy and Tanchainant over Filipino pair Kyle Cordero and Kim Ivor Saraza, 6-1, 6-1, and fourth seeds Leander Lazaro and Korean Jeong Joo-Wook, 6-2, 6-4.

Booking semifinal berths in the girls' doubles were top seeds Han Na-lee and Lee Se-won of Korea, second seeds Huey Teng Sia and Adelle Boey of Malaysia, fourth seeds Sarah Jane Lim and Noelle Zoleta of the Philippines, and unseeded pair Jessica May of Brunei and Kaori Yamazaki of Japan.

The tournament is sponsored by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. and Wilson balls.

Mauresmo prevails

MOSCOW—FRENCH TOP SEED, and world number one, Amelie Mauresmo struggled into the Kremlin Cup quarter-finals on Thursday with a 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) win over Elena Vesnina of Russia.

Australian Open and Wimbledon winner Mauresmo, who is trying to finish the season as world number one for the first time in her career, won her first ever meeting with Russia's 20-year-old in two hours and 21 minutes.

Unheralded Vesnina clinched the vital break in the eighth game of the first set to gain a 5-3 lead. Mauresmo broke back immediately to level at 5-5 but Vesnina produced another break to take the opening set in 42 minutes.

In the second set, Mauresmo tightened her grip and broke twice to take a 4-0 advantage.

Vesnina reduced the arrears with a break in the sixth game but the 27-year-old Frenchwoman broke again to level at one set all after one hour 24 minutes on court.

The opponents traded breaks halfway through the deciding set forcing a tiebreak, which Mauresmo won 7/3 to book a quarter-final spot. *AFP*

MAURESMO

Gomez gets IM norm

FILIPINO NM JOHN PAUL GOMEZ beat Vietnamese Grandmaster Le Quang Liem Thursday to get an international master result in the World Junior Boys and Girls Championships at the Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

After nine games, Gomez obtained a tournament performance rating of 2524, exceeding the 2450 TPR requirement for an IM result stated in the Fide handbook.

The pride of Biñan, Laguna, now has 5.5 points and shares 18th to 21st places with IM Baris Esen of Turkey, IM Levon Babujian of Armenia and FM Tomasz Warakomski of Poland. Gomez and Esen will tangle in the 10th round.

Seeded No. 44, Gomez beat the 13th-ranked Liem, the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games rapid gold medalist, with the black pieces to stay in the title hunt.

Gomez earned his first IM result in the 2006 Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ukrainian GM Yuriy Kryvoruchko and Russian IM Nikita Vitiugov share the lead with 7 points in the men's division while Georgian WGM Salome Melia is the sole leader of the girls section with 7 points.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Beat back the basketball barrage, bang the drums for Doha

By Percy D. Della

PIDO JARENCIO'S GROWLING Tigers deserve a roar of applause and the glare of the spotlight any day.

The España dribblers defied the odds. They clawed every inch of the way to reach the apex of college basketball this year.

Congratulations to the team known as the Santo Tomas Glowing Goldies during our time at the Dominican campus.

Getting lost, however, in the incessant basketball barrage following UST's Cinderella finish in the UAAP is our Asiad delegation's quest for corporate sponsors.

Enough of basketball, please. It's high time to bang the drums for Doha.

Sure, there won't be a much-publicized, much-televised basketball team in this year's roll of 267 Pinoy Asian Games athletes. But just the same, help.

Ignite a wildfire of business support for our Qatar-bound sports warriors and their 133 coaches and officials.

They don't deserve to be a mere blur in the collective mind of a cage-crazed public.

Paging the Lucio Tans, Manny V. Pangilinans, George Sys and John Gokongweis among us.

The 400-strong Asiad delegation cannot wait until the cows come home.

The days are dwindling down before the quadrennial meet opens on Dec. 1.

And this late, sports officials are unsure how to come up with the P33 million and change needed for the trip. And then there is also the question of more money to put up close to a hundred delegation members outside of the Asian Games Village, just in case.

The Philippine Sports Commission has pledged P30 million of this amount. The burning question: Are these funds now available?

"It's a PSC thing," says Philippine Olympic Committee spokesman Joey Romasanta.

COMMENTARY

And how's the dialing for corporate pesos coming along? Not us, clarified Joey on the phone a few days ago. The PSC's Ritchie Garcia should know.

"Looking for sponsors is not under me," said Garcia in a text message. "I don't know if there are sponsors that have already called the POC."

Meanwhile, the Asiad teams are left wondering with a shared purpose and shared fear.

Never mind the fear. It's all about the purpose: go out on that plain of battle and try to emerge champions, come home and be loved even by strangers.

Just like basketball stars.

* * *

By signing a seven-fight deal with boxing legend and promoter Oscar De La Hoya, Filipino ring idol Manny Pacquiao has become a child of a "lesser god" in the sport.

The reining deity Bob Arum has started hurling thunderbolts nonstop from his Mount Olympus—Las Vegas.

Let's see how things play out—meaning Arum being ditched as promoter by the General Santos City fighter.

The highest paid Pinoy fighter of all time is now in the thick of body conditioning and mental calisthenics for his "Grand Finale" with Mexico's Erik Morales at the Thomas & Mack Center in Vegas on Nov. 18.

* * *

Sports note: The Cyber library in my adopted hometown, Candon City, now features a high-tech, touch-screen tourism kiosk. A service of the Philippine Tourism Authority and the Department of Tourism, the computer station features a brief history and a picture tour of the tourist attractions of the second district of Ilocos Sur. The area congressman, Rep. Eric D. Singson, urges visitors to drop by the library for a thumbnail tour before proceeding to their leisure destinations in the region.

WBL kicks off tomorrow

THIRTY-SIX TEAMS WILL VIE FOR HONORS in the four-level Women's Basketball League which reels off at 8 a.m. tomorrow at the Xavier School Sports Complex.

Last year's champions Miriam College (elementary), Immaculate Concepcion Academy (high school developmental), De La Salle Zobel (high school competitive) and University of Santo Tomas (college) head the big field in the tourney organized by BEST Center and sponsored by Milo.

The other entries are: **Elementary**—Assumption College, Community of Learners, De La Salle Zobel and Poveda Learning Centre.

High school (competitive)—Angelicum College, Assumption College, Community of Learners, La Salle College Antipolo, Miriam College, New Era University, San Beda College Alabang, School of the Holy Spirit and St. Scholastica's College.

High school (developmental)—Assumption Antipolo, Colegio de Sta. Rosa, First Asia Institute of Technology, Grace Christian High School, Montessori Integrated School, Poveda Learning Centre, PWU-JASMS, School of St. Anthony, Southville International School, St. James Academy (Malabon), St. Scholastica's College Westgrove, St. Theresa's College and UP IS.

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SPORTS

WNCAA crowns disputed today

WORLD CITI COLLEGES AND Miriam College clash for the Senior B crown at 1:30 p.m. while Lyceum and St. Benilde dispute the Senior A title at 3 p.m. as the WNCAA basketball tournament reaches its climax today at the St. Scholastica gym.

Miriam and Lyceum took the finals opener on Sept. 24, scoring 70-44 and 42-40 (extra time) decisions, respectively.

Last weekend, WCC charged back with a 74-70 win while CSB evened up matters with a 51-48 victory to force today's rubber matches.

Chiang Kai Shek College and De La Salle Zobel collide at 12 noon for the right to face first juniors finalist Miriam.

The WNCAA 37th season is presented by Adidas and supported by Solar Sports, Snickers, Club 650, Mikasa, Molten and Gosen.

Ang Liga distaff soccer kicks off at Santo Tomas

GAMES TODAY
(*UST Field*)
3 p.m.—Sphere vs. Santo Tomas
GAMES SUNDAY
(*Marikina*)
10 a.m.—CSB vs. SBC
3 p.m.—Candidates vs. Far Eastern U

WOMEN'S SOCCER HOGS THE SPOTLIGHT starting today when the First PFF Ang Liga Filipina soccer tournament kicks off with Sphere facing Santo Tomas at 3 p.m. at the UST pitch.

Eight evenly balanced teams are seeing action in the league, sponsored by the Philippine Football Federation, Philippine National Women's Football Association and the Marikina City government of Mayor Marides Fernando.

"The tournament is a solid step in realizing the lessons of the recent FIFA Women's soccer seminar held in our country," Linda Schaefer, PFF women's committee chair, said.

Tournament director Cathy Rivilla said other squads in the fold are San Beda, St. Benilde, Nomads, International FC, Far Eastern U and Candidates, composed of national pool members.

Poveda alumni golf set Oct. 27

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF POVEDA FOUNDATION and the Poveda Class of 1982 will hold a fundraising golf tournament at the Alabang Country Club on Oct. 27. Tee-off time is from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The tournament, to be held for the benefit of the underprivileged and deserving tertiary students of Saint Pedro Poveda College and the Makabata Foundation, is made possible by GMA 7 as presenter. Other sponsors include Meralco, Jose Rizal University, Foro Consulting, Rockwell Land, Benpress Holdings, Revlon, First Gen, Bayantel, Jose Rizal University, with the cooperation of JR and R Distributors, Delta Distribution Corp., Ginebra San Miguel, Electrobus Consolidated, distributors of Callaway Golf, and Ford Libis. At stake is a Mazda 3 courtesy of Mazda Greenhills. For inquiries, call 635-0565, 631-8756 or 09176232456.

SPORTSWATCH

UCAP fun bike tomorrow

ABOUT 3,000 CYCLISTS WILL SEE ACTION IN THE 3rd UCAP Bisikletahan Para sa Kalusugan ng Masa tomorrow at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. The 57-kilometer cause-oriented event supports the Clean Air Act project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, according to Ricky Cruz, president of the organizing United Cyclists Association of the Philippines. Assembly time is 6 a.m. while flag off is 7 a.m. Motorcycle escorts, headed by Tour veteran Cornelio Baylon, will lead the way. Different groups are also expected to join the peloton that will pass by North EDSA, C-5 Road, Quirino Avenue, Kamuning, Cubao, Ortigas, Meralco and Rodriguez Avenue. Registration is still going on at UCAP office at No. 14 Tikling St., Villilia Village, Novaliches, QC. For details, call 930-7113 or 453-7375.

Fatman Diego rules at GCAP

PARTNERS ERIC DELA ROSA AND PEPITO NGO broke a string of runnerup finishes to win the championship of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby Wednesday night at the San Juan Coliseum. Dela Rosa and Ngo's Fatman Diego entry, backed up by the fast-shuffling black roundheads, piled up five victories in winning the title. Another GCAP 5-stag showdown takes centerstage on Wednesday at the same venue with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The fifth leg on Wednesday will feature more than 70 fights. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-5665.

Diamante Bros tilt kicks off

ROUND ONE OF THE Diamante Brothers 5-Stag Derby gets going at Roligon Mega Cockpit today with more than 80 derby regulars from Metro Manila and the provinces set to field their new battlestags. Today's 2-stag elimination starts at 5 p.m. The next round unfolds on Oct. 16 while the finale is set on Oct. 18. Afficionados can avail themselves of the lower admission price of P300 beginning today, said Roligon owner Rolly Ligon. Meanwhile, the Clean Up 4-Stag Derby, originally scheduled on Oct. 28, will instead be held on Oct. 24. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

Makati 4-stag derby today

TOUGH ENCOUNTERS SIZZLE ANEW AT THE Makati Coliseum today via a special 4-stag derby featuring 60 fights sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. and host Rey Oliveros said P300,000 await the champions. The event follows the Super 5-Stag Derby last Wednesday where William Co emerged as solo champion. Participants may only field stags banded by PCAP, NGBA, MIGBA, LGBA, GF-BAN, Bakbakan, Balbina and PAGBA. Weight limits are from 1.7 kgs. to 22.2 kgs. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

75 fights up in SJC stagfest

PROMINENT COCKERS CLASH ANEW IN THE Sabungero 5-Stag Derby which gets under way at 5 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum with 75 matches sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The list of participants include Patrick Antonio, Mayor Dennis Pineda, Benjie Lim and Pol Estrellado of GCAP, Dodie Villarubio, Eric dela Rosa and Renato Shio of PCCA, Ronnie Lacsina and Peter Cabaddu of UBBA as well as independent breeders from Tarlac, Pangasinan, Zambales and Pampanga. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-5665. Meanwhile, the elimination round of the No Entry Fee Labanan 7-Stag Derby returns at SJC on Monday, Oct. 16.

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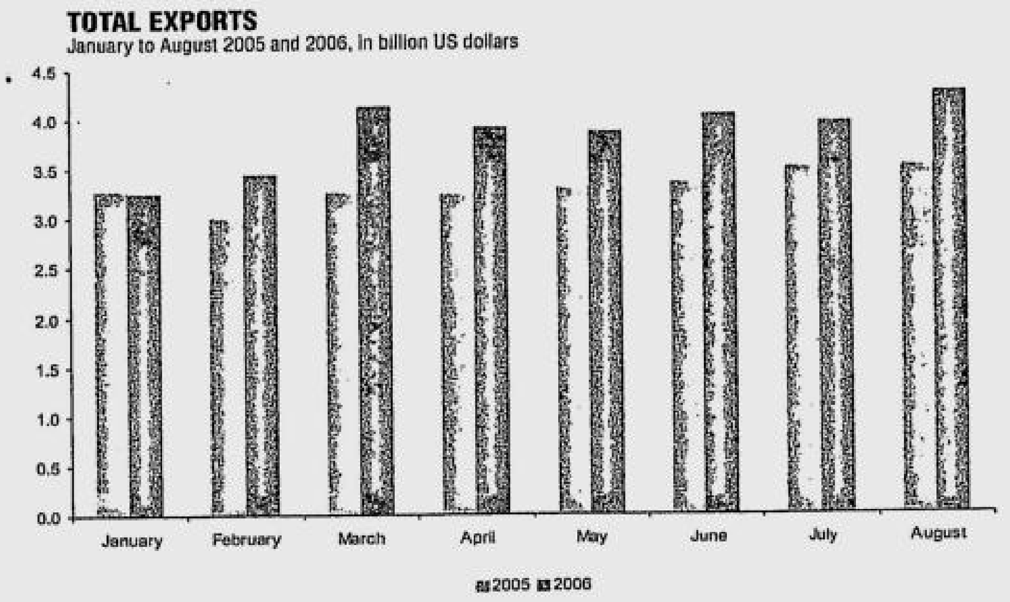
Exports surged 21.3% in August to $4.26B



OFW remittances jumped 15.3% to $8.1B in Jan.-Aug.

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILipino workers through banks sustained the $1-billion level for the fourth consecutive month in August at $1.09 billion, bringing the total for the first eight months to $8.1 billion or 15.3 percent higher than a year ago.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said that remittances for the whole of 2006 could reach $11.87 billion, with the bulk to come from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates, Canada and Singapore.

Tetangco attributed the sustained increase in remittances to the overseas market's continued preference for Filipino workers and the enhanced efficiency in the delivery of remittance services to beneficiaries.

He added that government and private sector efforts to comply with the standards of the International Maritime Organization for seafarers and the establishment of stronger bilateral relations with labor-importing countries also helped sustain the deployment of Filipinos abroad.

"Remittances also rose on the strength of the marketing activities of commercial banks

OFW/ B2

Expanding China economy boosts demand for RP copper

By Michelle V. Remo

A SURGE IN THE GLOBAL DEMAND FOR ELECtronics and copper pushed Philippine exports higher by 21.3 percent in August, the seventh straight month of a double-digit jump, to $4.26 billion from $3.96 billion a year ago, the National Statistics Office announced yesterday.

This brought the country's export earnings for the first eight months of 2006 to $30.95 billion, or 16.9-percent higher than last year.

Victor Abola, economics professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific, said export growth in August had to do largely with China's rising demand for copper, a raw material used as wiring for telecommunication lines and automobile components, among others.

NSO documents showed that cathodes of refined copper was the country's third-biggest export product in August, contributing $115.53 million. This was a 298.3-percent jump from the $29 million recorded in the same month last year.

"We can still expect a double-digit growth in exports in the coming months with the pulling effect of copper," Abola said in an interview.

While exports of copper registered a notable growth in August, electronics remained the Philippines biggest export earner. Electronics exports reached $2.69 billion, up by 14.7 percent from $2.349 billion a year ago.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said growth in electronics exports reflected the competitiveness of Philippine-made electronics products. He said the double-digit rise in electronics exports from the Philippines was despite the slowdown in demand for the same in other Asia-Pacific countries.

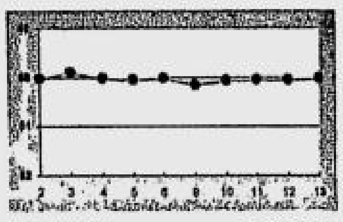
Garments were still the Philippines' second-biggest export product, contributing $244.57 million or 1.4-percent higher year-on-year. The growth in garments exports was due to higher demand for jerseys, cardigans, waistcoats, and pullovers, among others, the NSO said.

Other top exports during the month were: petroleum products, $78.04 million; wiring sets used for vehicles, aircraft and ships, $76.24 million; woodcrafts

EXPORTS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.00 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 13, 2006

¥119.44 = $1

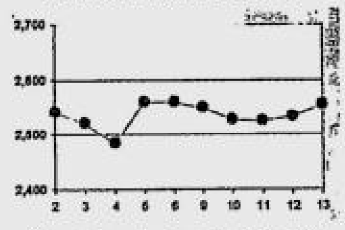
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 12, 2006

GOLD: **$576.00-576.50**

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 12, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.90-PERCENT higher yesterday on the back of robust export figures and the passage of the national budget for 2007, dealers said.

Companies expected to report strong earnings for the third quarter, led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), were in favor, they added.

The composite index gained 22.85 points to 2,557.25 after trading between 2,564.53 and 2,534.40.

The broader all-share index rose 13.25

STOCKS/ B2

PLDT bars calls from Globe unit

By Riza T. Olchondra

TELECOMMUNICATIONS GIANT Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) has temporarily barred incoming calls from Innove Communications' PC-to-phone service to its landlines while the two parties work out an interconnection agreement.

PLDT has filed a complaint with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) against Innove, saying calls from the United States and the United Kingdom were being connected as a local call to PLDT landlines through Innove's GlobeQUEST Webphone.

"Routine monitoring done by PLDT has disclosed that incoming calls from GlobeQUEST WebPhone service from the US and United Kingdom, and from the regional area to a local PLDT phone were routed at the local interconnect of PLDT and Innove without the benefit of an interconnect arrangement and are charged and/or rated as local calls to Metro Manila," PLDT said in its letter to the NTC.

PLDT argued that the practice violated the terms and conditions of its local interconnection deal with Innove where both parties agreed not to engage in an operation or service that would constitute an uncompensated bypass of their respective systems.

A bypass occurs when a company provides direct access between subscribers of separate network operators without express permission.

During a hearing at the NTC, Innove acknowledged that it has detected a bypass but explained that it only marketed the service for domestic calls.

PLDT/ B2

Hullo Hullo!

IN THIS ISSUE

▨ **IMF to ease** watch on RP /B5

▨ **Tuna sector** to get big boost from Alliance IPO /B8

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 13, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40.5	40.5	39.5	40	1,520,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57	56.5	56.5	4,341,700
China Banking Corp.	640	645	640	645	13,850
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	3,230,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	68	68	65	65	322,400
Philippine National Bank	33	34	33	34	17,000
Phil. Savings Bank	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	3,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Security Bank Corp.	54	54.5	54	54.5	25,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	46	46	46	46	100,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.35	4.45	1,784,000
First Abacus Financial	0.4	0.54	0.4	0.51	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1575	1575	1575	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	307,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1990	1990	1965	1965	320
Ivantage Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	3,259,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50.5	51	50.5	51	27,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	52	52	51	51	460,700
Manila Electric Co. A	26	26	24.5	26	527,000
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	998,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	3,315,000
Petron Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.05	6,307,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	310,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	40,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37.5	38.5	37.5	38.5	1,201,100
Rfm Corp.	0.91	1.04	0.91	1	3,690,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	73,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.29	0.36	0.29	0.36	3,880,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	66	65	66	93,900
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	76.5	74.5	76.5	216,800
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.25	18.75	19	1,187,100
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	32,550,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.18	2.36	2.18	2.32	4,114,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.7	1.74	200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	4,987,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.78	1.92	1.78	1.92	348,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.6	4.65	700,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.66	0.68	0.65	0.67	104,830,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,120,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	8,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.008	31,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.009	0.008	0.009	18,000,000
Ayala Corp.	487.5	492.5	487.5	487.5	108,630
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	470,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	593,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	3,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	726,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.23	0.24	3,970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	62,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	1,140,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.4	3.4	3.25	3.25	36,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.2	74,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.42	1.42	10,014,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.4	2,510,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.8	1,569,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.36	1.46	1.36	1.46	1,019,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	1,154,000
Keppel Holdings	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,150,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.8	20,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.6	1.64	1.54	1.56	2,836,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	1,100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	21,040,000
SM Investments Corp.	255	260	255	260	421,950
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.34	1.48	1.34	1.48	616,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	2,480,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	80,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	14	2,366,400
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	100,000
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	27,640,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.22	1.26	1.2	1.24	883,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	220,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	88,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.56	40,940,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	1,190,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	11,259,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	3,190,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.74	0.82	0.74	0.78	13,120,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.96	2	1.94	1.98	38,316,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	523,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.27	0.29	290,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	13	13	6,797,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	5,400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	6,895,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	2,961,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	450,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	14,200
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	110,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	7.1	7.1	6.4	6.6	120,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.5	1.54	1.48	1.54	29,082,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1105	1110	1100	1105	132,240
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	4,062,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2200	2210	2200	2200	236,590
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.12	2	2	2,179,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	4,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	4,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.34	605,000
Philweb Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.031	0.032	288,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	19,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	20	19.5	19.5	269,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2	2	2	2	462,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	680,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	830	830	830	830	520
Ipeople Inc	3	3	2.8	2.95	787,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.94	1.96	1,531,000
Paxys Inc.	12	12	12	12	294,800
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.4	4,452,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.5	1,222,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	61,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	765,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	11,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	13,550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	200,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	117,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	116,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.65	8,433,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.5	19.5	18.5	19	46,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	1,230,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	270,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,070,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	1	0.97	1	770,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp.-B	11	11	11	11	2,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.4	124,000

OFW remittances . . .

From page B1

and private remittance agents aimed at extending efficient remittance services to Filipinos abroad and their beneficiaries," Tetangco said.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on new hires and rehires showed that total deployment in August climbed 41.6 percent year-on-year to 100,793.

The number of land-based workers jumped 54.1 percent or 78,377 while that of sea-based workers by 10.2 percent or 22,416.

The growth in August brought total deployment for the eight-month period to 762,153, up by 8.7 percent from a year ago.

Classified by type of worker, both the number of land-based and sea-based workers posted growths of 7.2 percent (577,204) and 13.9 percent (184,949), respectively.

Meanwhile, Tetangco announced that for the month of September, net foreign inflows to local stocks, bonds and bank products more than doubled to $373.7 million from $131.5 million in August.

This brought the nine-month portfolio inflows to $1.39 billion, although still lower than the $2.03 billion last year.

"Investor confidence was bolstered during the month following the announcement of the 5.5-percent year-on-year rise in GDP (gross domestic product) during the second quarter, the further slowdown in the inflation rate to 6.3 percent in August, the P14.3 billion budget surplus in August (the fourth monthly surplus posted this year), the maintenance of key policy rates by the US Federal Reserve and the Bangko Sentral, the continued strengthening of the peso and easing oil prices," Tetangco said.

Exports surged . . .

From page B1

and furniture, $65.28 million; coconut oil, $45.37 million; metal components, $35.66 million; and bananas, $30.66 million.

The United States was still the Philippines' biggest export market, accounting for $807.76 million of total export receipts. Japan followed with $632.42 million, and China with $422.35 million.

Other top export markets for the Philippines in August were the Netherlands, $379.38 million; Hong Kong, $334.19 million; Singapore, $270.57 million; Malaysia, $270.15 million; Taiwan, $225.67 million; Germany, $175.05 million; and Korea, $132.59 million.

The government is targeting a 10-percent growth in exports this year.

PLDT bars calls . . .

From page B1

In a letter to PLDT, Innove also said there was "no intention on its part to avoid the payment of appropriate access charges to PLDT. However, there are some unscrupulous users who bring Globe1 cards abroad and use the WebPhone service to call PLDT subscribers.

"There were clear instructions in the website that the GlobeQUEST WebPhone service is limited to Philippine users only but sadly there were unscrupulous users," Globe assistant vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs Froilan Castelo said in a phone interview.

Castelo also said PLDT's move while interconnection talks were going on was "regrettable" because Innove, a wholly owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom Inc., has started blocking other networks from its GlobeQUEST Webphone service two to three months ago pending an interconnection agreement.

PLDT spokesperson Mon Isberto said the blocking of Innove's PC-to-phone calls on top of Innove's own move was done to ensure that no bypass calls would get through the system.

Stocks end higher

From page B1

points to 1,571.41.

Gainers led losers 74 to 24, with 51 stocks unchanged.

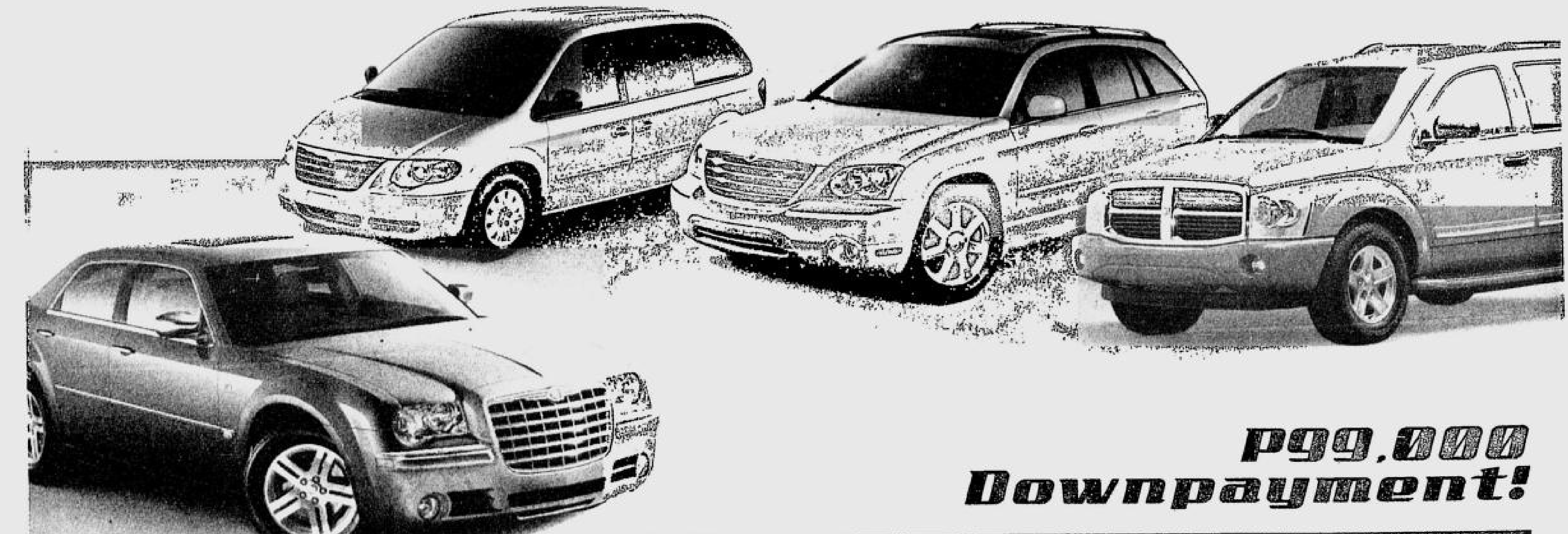
Volume was 1.43 billion shares worth P2.1 billion. Shortly before the market opened, the National Statistics Office announced that exports in August rose 21.3 percent over the same period last year to $4.26 billion.

The House of Representatives meanwhile approved the government's proposed budget for 2007 although this will still have to go through the Senate before it becomes law.

AFP

CURRENCIES

October 13, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.796115	1.000000	50.0040
Japan	Yen	0.006671	0.008379	0.4190
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480455	1.859600	92.9874
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102188	0.128358	6.4184
Switzerland	Franc	0.627702	0.788457	39.4260
Canada	Dollar	0.702165	0.881990	44.1030
Singapore	Dollar	0.503233	0.632111	31.6081
Australia	Dollar	0.597639	0.750694	37.5377
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.111879	2.652731	132.6472
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212280	0.266645	13.3333
Brunei	Dollar	0.501648	0.630120	31.5085
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021247	0.026688	1.3345
UAE	Dirham	0.216860	0.272398	13.6210
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.256100	62.8100
Argentina	Peso	0.256398	0.322061	16.1043
Brazil	Real	0.370459	0.465333	23.2685
Denmark	Kroner	0.134153	0.168509	8.4261
India	Rupee	0.017466	0.021939	1.0970
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215603	0.270819	13.5420
Mexico	New Peso	0.073088	0.091806	4.5907
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526148	0.660895	33.0474
South Africa	Rand	0.104835	0.131683	6.5847
Korea	Won	0.000831	0.001044	0.0522
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023957	0.030093	1.5048



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$50-M IFC loan for SLEX to be released in November

By Riza T. Olchondra

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE Corp. (IFC) is expected to release next month a $50-million long-term loan for the rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

This project involves the rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct in Muntinlupa City (phase 1), expansion of the Alabang-Sta. Rosa portion to eight lanes, Sta. Rosa-Calamba portion to six lanes, and Calamba-Sto. Tomas road to four lanes.

"(The SLEX financing) is very much on track. We are processing the loan at the moment," IFC country manager Vipul Bhagat said in an interview. "We expect to reach financial closure by the end of November."

The World Bank unit will lend up to $50 million to SLEX proponent MTD Manila Expressway, a unit of Malaysia's MTD Capital.

MTD has signed a supplemental toll operation agreement with Philippine National Construction Corp. and the Toll Regulatory Board to facilitate the processing of the loan. The STOA specifies the toll fee rates and how they are computed.

Under the STOA, the Malaysian firm had agreed to upgrade the 30-km highway from Alabang to Calamba for P8.3 billion. It also agreed to use its own money to finance 30 percent of the total project cost for this portion of the project, which is P2.5 billion.

MTD Manila Expressway turned over in July 2005 some $2.5 million to the PNCC as proof of its financial capability.

On top of the $50-million it is extending to the SLEX project proponent, IFC would raise another $50 million in tandem with other banks, the IFC country manager told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview. The syndicated loan will have a maturity of 7-10 years.

First Metro Investment Corp., Banco de Oro, along with German banks DZ and Depfa, may contribute to the additional $50-million fund for the project.

DZ and Depfa specialize in financing infrastructure projects.

More than 150,000 motorists use the 30-km SLEX daily.

Financing support readied for winning Transco bidder

IFC offer hinged on certain conditions

By Abigail L. Ho

THE WORLD BANK'S INVESTMENT arm, International Finance Corp., will be providing the winning bidder of the 25-year National Transmission Corp. (Transco) financing support.

In a letter to Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), IFC country manager for the Philippines and Thailand Vipul Bhagat said the support would come in the form of financing and quasi-equity or equity investment.

Bhagat said the granting of the funding support, however, would depend on IFC's "comfort with the shareholders group, the satisfactory completion of legal, environmental, technical and financial due diligence requirement, approval by IFC's management and board of directors, and execution of mutually satisfactory documentation."

"IFC would be pleased to consider working with the winning bidder on mutually acceptable terms, in an effort to determine the feasibility of the proposed financing and the potential for IFC support," he said in his letter dated Oct. 10.

In a statement, Psalm president Nieves Osorio said the financing support offer affirmed IFC's strong faith in the country's power sector and strengthened the resolve of potential bidders to participate in the bidding for the Transco concession, which would be held in November.

Three investor groups submitted to PSALM their pre-qualification proposals for the Transco concession last Sept. 28.

The announcement of the qualified bidders will be made when PSALM completes its deliberation and validation of the technical and financial capabilities of the three groups.

Only entities that will hurdle the pre-qualification process will be qualified to submit their technical and financial proposals on Nov. 7.

To pre-qualify, a potential bidder should have a member or affiliate with a net asset value or market capitalization of at least $500 million.

They also have to have a member or affiliate "with sufficient experience in operating and maintaining electricity transmission systems comparable to that of the Philippines, with at least 6,000 circuit kilometers and a minimum 5,000 megawatts peak demand and a voltage level of 115 kilovolts (kV) to 230 kV," according to PSALM.

For interested foreign firms, they have to enter into partnerships with Filipino entities to enable them to comply with the 60-40 equity rule under the Constitution.

Potential foreign investors should have a net asset value or market capitalization of at least $175 million, and their Filipino partners should have at least $300 million.

Mindanao cities on the rise

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

CITY COMPETITIVENESS, AS defined by the World Competitiveness Yearbook, is the ability of a city to create and maintain an environment that sustains more value creation for its enterprises and more prosperity for its people.

In the recent research of the Asian Institute for Management (AIM) for the Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Project 2005, Philippine cities were again ranked based on seven major drivers of competitiveness: Cost of doing business, dynamism of local economy, linkages and accessibility, human resources and training, infrastructure, responsiveness of local government to business needs and quality of life. These were adopted from the World Competitiveness Yearbook of the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development.

The drivers are inter-related as one affects the other. Infrastructure, for instance, plays a key role in attaining economies of scale, while efficient delivery of services improves the quality of life. The dynamism of a local economy affects the cost of doing business since an imbalance in supply and demand results in higher costs. Leadership affects the overall competitiveness of a city. A competitive city means cost effective business transactions that create a self-reliant local government unit and a more dynamic economy.

The project assessed the capacity of a city to provide an environment that nurtures its enterprises and industries, and its ability to attract investments and uplift the living standards of its residents. It provides a benchmarking process that will aid individual cities in measuring competitiveness.

The study was intended to motivate local governments to be economic managers, not just service providers; provide feedback mechanism for business, and provide an assessment tool to pinpoint and analyze best practices in economic management and apply competitiveness lessons from other LGUS.

"Sixty-five cities were surveyed in PCCRP 2005, the fourth edition of the project. Cities were categorized into 13 metropolitan cities (those in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao), 15 mid-sized cities (non-metro cities each with a population greater than 200,000), and 37 small cities (each with a population less than 200,000). Geographically, 30 cities are from Luzon, 14 from Visayas and 21 from Mindanao.

Based on the results, five Mindanao cities were named most competitive. Davao, for the metropolitan city category; Iligan for the medium-scale cities and Koronadal, Surigao and Tagum for the small-sized cities.

Davao City is the only metro city in Mindanao that was named one of the most competitive cities in the country, confirming its role as the central economic hub in the island. The efficient LGU response to business needs, infrastructure and high quality of life also contributed to the city's high rating.

In the medium-scale category, only Iligan made it as a competitive city, ranking second in the following categories: Cost of doing business, efficient response of LGUs and developed infrastructure. Butuan ranked fourth in cost of doing business, Cagayan de Oro was fourth in infrastructure, General Santos was second in linkages and accessibility, and Zamboanga was first in the cost of doing business and dynamism of local economy.

Small Mindanao cities

In the small-scale cities category, Surigao was ranked first in the cost of doing business, followed by Koronadal, while Tagum was third in responsiveness of LGUs to business needs. Others that joined the project acquired the following results in one or two drivers: Bago was 10th and Tacurong ranked 15th in responsiveness of LGUs to business needs; Bislig was 29th in economic dynamism and responsiveness of LGUs; Cotabato ranked 15th in human resources and training; Dapitan was No. 11 and Oroquieta was No. 23 in quality of life; Digos was ranked 13th in infrastructure; Gingoog was third, Pagadian 9th and Marawi 11th in cost of doing business, while Valencia made it to 15th; Ozamis was 19th in dynamism of local economy, and Panabo was 7th in linkages and accessibility.

Drivers of competitiveness

From the competitive cities' documented best practices, the leadership value of local government officials, followed by the presence of a strong support system (business alliances and responsive civil society) were deemed necessary to become a competitive city. Other factors influencing competitiveness included quality of human resources, presence of good infrastructure and a stable peace and order situation.

These best practices were based on the basics of development, which are infrastructure provision (roads & bridges, water, power, telecommunications); quick and simplified response from government; accurate and timely collection of statistics that build to policy making, resulting in ordinances and regulations that are responsive to current and emerging needs. Participatory governance is also a major factor highlighted in the study.

The study further noted the major contribution of cities to national economic development. All Mindanao cities surveyed were contributing in the overall economic development of Mindanao through improved infrastructure and efficient delivery of services.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for Mindanao and chair of Mindanaworld Foundation Inc. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
November 2006
SyCipLaw Auditorium, 17/F SSHG Law Centre, 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
November 3 (Friday)	
Three (3) Units 8 00 to 11:00 AM	A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Commercial Law in 2005 (Updates on Jurisprudence) -- Rafael A. Morales
Three (3) Units 11 00 AM to 3 00 PM	Back to Basics in Ethics (Legal Ethics) -- Mia G. Gontugaya
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6 00 PM	A Legal Perspective – Opportunities, Challenges and Risks for Foreign Investors in the Philippine Mining Industry (MCLE-prescribed subject Land and Economics) -- Marilyn A. Victorio-Aquino
November 10 (Friday)	
Three (3) Units 8 00 to 11:00 AM	Update on Labor Law: Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations (Updates on Laws & Jurisprudence) -- Dante T. Pamintuan
Three (3) Units 11 00 AM to 3 00 PM	Rules and Cases on Bar Discipline (Legal Ethics) -- Ramon G. Songco
Three (3) Units 3 00 to 6 00 PM	Foreign Investments in the Philippines (MCLE-prescribed subject: Transnational Business Transactions) -- Rocky L. Reyes
November 17 (Friday)	
Four (4) Units 8 00 to 12 00 AM	Pleading Writing and Oral Advocacy -- Carlos Roberto Z. Lopez
Three (3) Units 3 00 to 6 00 PM	Update on Taxation: Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations (September and November) -- Canna C. Laforteza
Two (2) Units 1 00 AM to 3 00 PM	Problem Areas and Issues Affecting Philippine Construction Arbitration (Alternative Dispute Resolution) -- Emmanuel M. Lombos
November 24 (Friday)	
Four (4) Units 8 00 to 12:00 AM	Trial and Pre-Trial Skills in Civil and Maritime Cases (Trial and Pre-Trial Skills) Anthony W. Dee & Domingo G. Castillo
Two (2) Units 1:00 to 3 00 PM	Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (International Law) -- Vicente B. Amador
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines -- Ricardo Ma. P.G. Ongkiko

(1) (a) Attendance at more than 2 days of sessions or the full course of 4 days. P10,000
(b) Attendance at no more than 2 days of sessions: P6,000
(c) Attendance at no more than 1 day of sessions. P3,000
(d) Attendance at any lecture will be considered attendance for a full day session for purposes of the registration fee
(e) Registrants for the full course have the option to pre-select their attendance days within August to November
(f) For the full course, (i) a 10% discount will be given to early registrants (those who register and pay on or before October 27, clients of the Firm, SyCip alumni, and government employees, and (ii) a 15% discount for a group of 10 or more participants who shall register and pay simultaneously. In case more than one type of discount is applicable, only one type of discount can be availed of
(2) The Registration Fee includes morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, lecture materials, and the MCLE Certificate of Attendance.
(3) Payment should be in cash or check payable to SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan. Except for the early registrants, all check payments must be delivered at least 5 working days prior to the date of the first lecture to the SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan Office 4th Floor 105 Paseo de Roxas Makati City
(4) We reserve the right to reschedule any or all of the lectures if warranted by reasons beyond our control.

The lectures are open to lawyers and non-lawyers alike.
For more information, please call Ms. Joyce L. Rozul at 817-98-11 to 20 or send your inquiries by fax to 817-38-96, or mcle@syciplaw.com

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Media and Communications Secretariat of the 12th ASEAN Summit* through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Presidential Broadcast Staff – RTVM is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid the hereunder project:

Procurement of Various Photographic Equipment & Accessories:

5 pcs. Digital Camera EOS-1D Mark IIN Digital
1 pc. Digital Camera EOS 30D Digital
4 pcs. Wide Lens EF 17-55mm f/t 2.8 IS USM for Digital Camera
2 pcs. Wide Lens 24-70mm f/t 2.8 USM for Digital Camera
4 pcs. Zoom Lens 70-200mm f/t 2.8 USM for Digital Camera
3 pcs. Battery Ni-MH Pack NP-E3 for Digital Camera
6 pcs. Speedlite Flash (580EX) for Digital Camera
21 pcs. Lens Filter 77mm UV Glass (CF7038UV) for Digital Camera
275 packs Lithium Battery for Digital Camera

Delivery Date : On or before December 1, 2006
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php2,479,850.00
Source of Funding: ASEAN Fund

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Place
1) Issuance of Bid Documents	October 14, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM
2) Pre-Bidding Conference	October 26, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM
3) Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	November 8, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin & Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel. Nos. 734-5681 / 735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php500.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **MELBA B. ALIGAEN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 14, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Mobile Phone: (+63) 928 4102732
e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Rehabilitation of Chiller and Storage Freezer

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P1,430,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the rehabilitation of chiller and storage freezer including the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of seven (7) air conditioning units as follows:*

Item No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Airconditioning units		700,000.00
2	Rehabilitation of Chiller		340,000.00
3	Rehabilitation of Storage Freezer		390,000.00
	TOTAL		**1,430,000.00**

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *rehabilitation of chiller and storage freezer including the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of seven (7) air conditioning units.* Delivery is required within 60 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 30, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th Floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 13, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 13, 2006 at 2:00 p.m* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

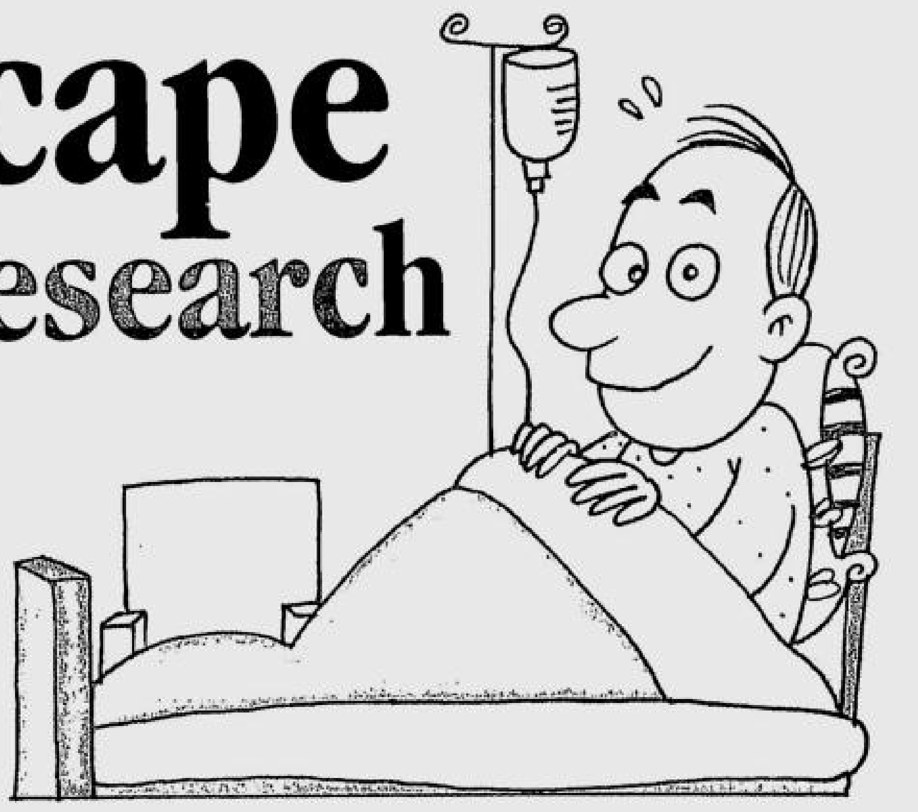
The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — *National Food Authority*
Contact Person — *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address — *Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No. — *(632) 455-2758*
Mobile Phone — *(+63) 928 4102732*
E-mail address — *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website — *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI–October 14 & 21, 2006)

Changing the landscape of liver disease cure, research



By Charles E. Buban

OUR LIVER IS A REMARKABLY resilient organ in responding to disease and infection—it can even generate, under some circumstances, whole new sections of itself to replace those that are diseased.

But when the liver has too much to handle, it can lead to problems that can be dangerous to fatal. For one, the disease may often go undetected for months and years because its first symptoms usually are vague and many sufferers don't know they're already sick.

"You may show no symptoms of the (liver) disease at all," says Dr. Juliet Cervantes, head of St. Luke's Center for Liver Diseases. "You can be feeling completely fine one day, then all of a sudden you find out you have cirrhosis (an irreversible and potentially fatal scarring of the liver). You may have had a chronic liver illness for a long time, and then when symptoms show it may already be too late," she adds.

No wonder, liver diseases, such as hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer, is rapidly growing worldwide with the highest rates noted to cluster in the regions of Asia, the Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Health Organization.

Address the burden

To improve the country's ability to prevent and treat liver diseases, while conducting basic and clinical research designed to cure them, St. Luke's Medical Center decided to establish the center four years ago.

"The hospital wants to evolve systems that promote and retain liver health to the best of its ability in order to prevent disease progression. If there is one place in the country that has the resources, infrastructure and multiplicity of programs under an interdisciplinary umbrella, it is the St. Luke's Medical Center," Cervantes says.

CERVANTES

She notes that the center is established to address the specialized healthcare needs of the millions of Filipinos afflicted with various liver disorders.

For example, she cites that most people from the highly affected regions, including the Philippines, become infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV) during childhood: from infected mother to child at birth, from child to child contact in household settings, and from reuse of nonsterilized needles and syringes in poor healthcare facilities," Cervantes reports.

The doctor says that HBV is transmitted by contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person in the same way as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). "And many people don't realize that HBV is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV. We need to communicate this information to more people," Cervantes adds.

RP's first liver center

As the country's first liver center, the Center for Liver Diseases adopts a liver-specialist-oriented, multidisciplinary approach, and combines this with the hospitals' state-of-the-art medical equipment.

"This synergy (of top-rate specialists and state-of-the-art technology) has given the center its reputation for excellence in the detection, diagnosis, management and treatment of liver diseases," Cervantes explains.

She adds that the center, located at the ground floor of St. Luke's main hospital building, now offers comprehensive services to patients with acute, chronic or end-stage liver diseases and in fact, has a fully functional liver transplant unit that is able to perform hepatobiliary surgery (one which involves liver and bile ducts and other organs of the gastrointestinal system) and cadaveric- and living-donor liver transplantation.

Early diagnosis

The center is also backed up by facilities for the early diagnosis of primary liver cancer like the three-phased dynamic multi-sliced computed tomography (CT) scanning and/or Resovist-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging of the liver.

"Before the center introduced these techniques, patients with primary liver cancer in this country were usually diagnosed too late for effective treatment to be administered and they usually die within four to eight months from the time of diagnosis," Cervantes reports. "With these means for early diagnosis, today's patients have a much better chance of cure."

The center is also the first facility in the country to offer radiofrequency ablation (RFA), a cutting-edge, minimally invasive treatment for metastatic and primary liver cancer.

"When combined with one or more other treatment modalities offered by the center, RFA offers liver cancer patients new hope for a longer life or even a cure," Cervantes says.

Other breakthroughs

Other technological breakthroughs introduced by the center for the past four years include the technique to destroy liver cysts through the injection of special solutions (percutaneous sclerotherapy), which is a highly specific diagnostic test for the most common type of liver cancer, and the identification through positron emission tomography of cancerous lesions in the liver that may spread to other organs.

"The center is also the first of such facility in the country to offer a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary program that focuses on clinical patient care, basic and clinical research on diseases of the liver, and public and healthcare professional education," Cervantes boasts.

The program utilizes education, research and new modalities and technologies for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of liver cancer.

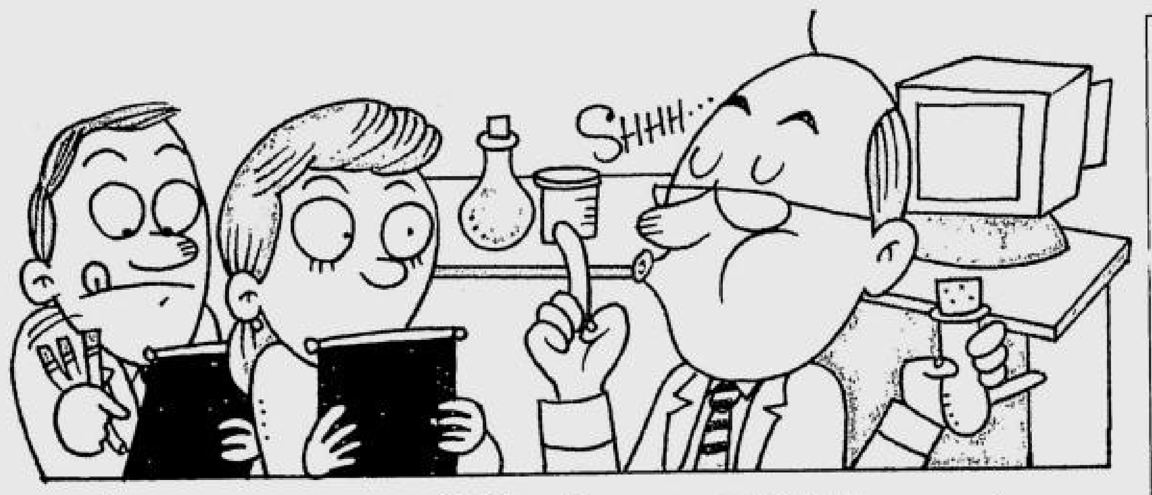
Cervantes also informs that the Center for Liver Diseases is also the only facility in the country to day to have Liver Disease Data Bank.

"This data bank will become the basis for even more liver disease research. Medical research on liver disease is critically important and further progress in this field promises to bring under control the major toll of liver disease on human health and well-being," Cervantes says.

In addition, St. Luke's thrust of supporting medical expertise with a strong clinical research program, the center works closely with scientists and researchers of the hospital's Research and Biotechnology Division in conducting numerous molecular, genetic and clinical research projects.

"This ensures that the clinical advances made in research are disseminated to the medical community and patients with liver disease," Cervantes explains.

To further boost its role in the country's fight against liver disease, the center also collaborates closely with the Philippine Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Philippine Foundation for Liver Diseases, especially in research and professional medical education as well as collaborating with other leading liver treatment and research centers abroad.



Silent genes (2): how RNAi works

Conclusion

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

LAST WEEK'S COLUMN GAVE AN overview of the research done by Professors Andrew Fire and Craig Mellow that led to their winning this year's Nobel Prize for Medicine. This week's column focuses on the scientific foundation of their work.

Biology classes teach that the process of creating a protein from the information encoded in a gene is composed of two steps. First is transcription, where DNA sequences are copied by messenger RNA (mRNA). The transcribed mRNA sequences move from the cell nucleus into the cytoplasm and encounter the ribosome.

Here translation occurs, as the genetic information stored in the mRNA is read off in three-nucleotide groups, forming the protein one amino acid at a time. For the web-savvy who may no longer have a biology textbook, a hands-on review of this process can be accessed at the following website from the University of Utah's Genetic Science Learning Center: http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/units/basics/transcribe/.

Gene posttranscription

RNA interference or RNAi is a means of silencing the gene post-transcription by degrading part of the mRNA sequence, thus preventing the complete protein from being formed and which in turn affects gene expression.

RNAi starts when long double-stranded RNA sequences (dsRNAs) enter a cell are singled out by Dicer, a member of the RNA polymerase (RNAse) III family of dsRNA-specific endonucleases.

Think of Dicer as the teacher standing at the front of the classroom waiting for the groups of students—in this case representing the dsRNAs—to enter the room and take their seats so class can begin. Dicer cleaves the dsRNA, breaking them up to form small interfering RNAs (siRNAs)—imagine the groups of students scattering to take their seats throughout the room.

Now imagine that each siRNA "student" from the previous analogy is actually made up of two combs—representing the sense and antisense strands of the siRNA sequence—whose teeth face each other but aren't exactly lined up. If each tooth on a comb represents a single nucleotide, the sequences complement each other with an overhang of 2 teeth on either side, which would represent the 3 ends of the genetic sequence.

RNAi silencing complex

Place a backpack on each siRNA "student" and now a protein known as Slicer has formed an RNAi silencing complex (RISC) with each short sequence. Like Dicer, Slicer also has an RNAse domain, this one known as Piwi that degrades RNA.

Now imagine that one of the strands of siRNA is pulled off and the strand left connected to Slicer and the rest of the RISC attaches itself to a target mRNA—which one might remember contains transcribed genetic information from the nucleus—whose sequence complements its own. Following the student-backpack analogy thus far, pretend the mRNA is a textbook. The binding of the siRNA-RISC strand with the mRNA strand activates Slicer's site-specific RNAse function, which cleaves the complementary mRNA sequence—ripping out pages from the textbook—right at its midpoint.

Suddenly freed by the cleavage, the free-floating mRNA sequence now falls under the category of litter and the cell marks it for destruction. Once the discarded genetic information has been removed, however, the remainder of the mRNA sequence finds itself unable to continue its primary mission, which was to allow the genetic information it carried out of the nucleus into the cytoplasm to be translated into a protein. Going back for the last time to the siRNA "student"-backpack-textbook analogy now, the homework assignment cannot be completed because the textbook was lacking the relevant pages.

An old nursery rhyme says that "for want of a nail the kingdom was lost." RNAi demonstrates that attention to such small and specific details can mean the difference between a fully functional gene and one that is silenced. This is why RNAi is considered such an important discovery and why Professors Fire and Mello's work was recognized so quickly.

* * *

E-mail the writer at massie@massie.com.

Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ: mathematician and reformer

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

EVEN BEFORE FR. BIENVENIDO "Ben" Nebres, SJ, became president of the Ateneo de Manila University, I used to discuss math and science issues with him. I was an idealistic assistant instructor, searching for how best to contribute to society, and young as I was, Fr. Ben always found the time for counsel. In 1991, when I was weighing which course to take for my master's, Fr. Ben encouraged me to delve into psychology, specifically learning and cognition, and utilize what I learned there in math. His advice has proven to be wise, and today I do interdisciplinary teaching and research in these areas.

When my first book appeared in December 1991, Fr. Ben wrote the foreword and gave a talk during the launch. Two years later, my Math colleagues and I were overjoyed to learn that Fr. Ben would become our new president. True enough, his far-reaching vision and wide knowledge have enabled him to guide our university in a fast-changing world, making us respond more concretely to community, societal and global change.

Beyond his specialty

"Math cannot grow in a vacuum," Fr. Ben believes, so he has ventured beyond his specialty—logic, specifically model theory and proof theory—to devote his life to establish a local environment conducive to math, science and national development. In the process, Fr. Ben has become not only a professor and a university administrator, but also a leader in the Jesuit order, Philippine education and the international math community.

Born in Baguio City on March 15, 1940, Fr. Ben reminisces, "I grew up in a small town in Bacnotan, La Union, and we were considered among the better-off families in town, since my father was one of the two town doctors and my mother was a teacher. But our town is one of simple rural people and I studied in the local public school and grew up with classmates from a range of social classes. Perhaps this background has helped me dialogue with different groups. Much later I realize how great is the cultural divide across social classes in the Philippines and how important it is to ask whether one can move back and forth between different worlds with some ease."

Mingles in different worlds

Evidently Fr. Ben mingles in different worlds easily. After teaching at the Ateneo High School from 1963 to 1965, he studied for his master's and doctorate degrees in math at Stanford University from 1965 to 1970. In 1972, he became founding president of the Math Society of the Philippines and a founding officer of the Southeast Asian Math Society. Since 1984, he has been an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology. In 1997, he became a founding board member of the Philippine Council of Mathematics Teacher Educators (Mathted) Inc. Up to this day, he is still involved in math. In fact, for the past five summers, he and I have been jointly handling a rigorous problem-solving class for gifted students in our university.

Fr. Ben's most satisfying intellectual achievement is the establishment of a consortium to develop graduate programs in math and science. "We hoped to form a critical mass of scientists to spur local development." The Consortium started in 1977, and to date more than 50 scholars are its proud graduates, most of them the top professors in our universities now. The consortium enables graduates to gain a global perspective through exposure to foreign research and culture. Fr. Ben also served on various international programs in education, and many presidential and congressional councils in the post-martial-law era.

Fr. Ben has a passion for reform. As provincial superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines in the 1980s, he coordinated efforts on the part of the Church in the years prior to and immediately after the 1986 revolution which restored democracy. As president of Xavier University from 1990 to 1993, he successfully spearheaded a socialized housing and land development program in Cagayan de Oro.

Motivated by his vision and his compassion, many groups in and out of the Ateneo, such as Gawad Kalinga and Pathways, have turned to Fr. Ben for support. When family counselor Maribel Sison-Dionisio and I did a study on the best practices of Ateneo families a few years ago, Fr. Ben would discuss our findings in his talks. This year he continues to advise us on a bigger study, this time dealing with public school achievers.

Well-deserved accolades

Fr. Ben has received many well-deserved accolades: the Order des Palmes Academiques by the French government, a Doctor of Laws, Honoris causa by the University of the Philippines, honorary membership by Phi Kappa Phi, election to the Hall of Fame by Stanford Asian American Alumni, among others. From Oct. 23 to 25, Mathted will host a conference in honor of Fr. Ben for Lifetime Achievement in Math Education. (The other honorees are Dr. Milagros Ibe, Ms Josefina Fonacier, and Sr. Iluminada Coronel.)

Because I speak constantly of Fr. Ben's generosity and kindness, my little boy Scott decided to show his gratitude in his own way. Two years ago, when Scott did math tricks in our class, he decided to inject a dose of humor—a funny story," he says, "in honor of Fr. Ben." This may be the purest tribute of them all.

* * *

E-mail the writer at blessbook@yahoo.com.

State-owned corporations told to set revenue, expenditure targets

By Michelle V. Remo

GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -controlled corporations will be asked to set their medium-term revenue and expenditure targets, in line with the national government's plan to consolidate its fiscal reform program.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said that with the marked progress in the government's deficit-reduction efforts, fiscal authorities should now focus on improving the performance of state-owned firms both in terms of generating revenue for the government and of providing public services.

"Fiscal discipline should be exercised by everybody, not just the national government," Beltran told reporters in an interview.

Beltran said that currently, GOCCs operate without medium-term targets. He said the state-owned firms should list their own fiscal goals and be made accountable for these targets as a way to encourage them to become better performers.

The government believes it is on its way to posting a zero deficit following the yearly cut in its budget gap. From P146.8 billion last year, the budget deficit is seen to hit below the programmed P125 billion this year.

But Beltran said fiscal reform would not be complete if GOCCs would not adopt their own revenue-enhancement and expenditure-management programs. GOCCs largely depend on the national government for their operations, and on sovereign guarantee for their borrowings.

There is an ongoing technical assistance by the Asian Development Bank on how to improve the performance of GOCCs, Beltran said. The assistance entails the conduct of a study on what should be the specific goals of each GOCC, with the goals anchored on its mandate.

BELTRAN

The study will likewise determine the appropriate amount of equity that the government should infuse in GOCCs for these to efficiently fulfill their mandates, and the extent of subsidized public services that they can afford.

"Once we (the national government) give them the appropriate equity, they should be accountable for the attainment of the mandates for which they were created," he said.

GOCCs posted a combined budget surplus of P1.9 billion in the first quarter of the year. This was a huge turnaround from the P8.4-billion deficit recorded in the same period last year.

The budget surplus posted by GOCCs in the first quarter helped result in the substantial drop in the country's consolidated public sector deficit (CSPD).

The DOF earlier reported that the CPSD dropped 35 percent to only P33.2 billion in the first quarter, compared with the P51.1 billion recorded in the same period last year.

CPSD is the combined budget gaps of the national government, GOCCs, social security institutions and local government units.

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IMF to ease watch on RP

Institution cites country's fiscal progress

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund will let the Philippines off its post-program monitoring by April next year—a development the government has been working to bring about for some time.

The move hinted at the IMF's growing confidence in the country's fiscal progress despite external shocks and political challenges.

"The end of the PPM is a sign of the economy's strength and a sign that vulnerabilities continue to fall ... external viability continues to improve and it is a development that we will welcome," IMF country representative Reza Baqir yesterday said in a briefing on the mid-2006 PPM discussions.

During the IMF's spring meetings early this year, Reza noted that a decision was made to extend the PPM for another year, but the current arrangement would be allowed to lapse in April.

During the IMF executive board's latest discussion on the Philippines on Oct. 11 (Washington time), no further PPM extension was made. Since 2001, this arrangement had been stretched out each year as a buffer against the government's fiscal woes.

The PPM provides for more frequent consultations between the IMF and members whose funding arrangements have expired, but which continue to have outstanding credit with the Fund.

Under this monitoring scheme, the IMF can offer advice, but it may no longer impose on policy, such as the one covering public sector borrowings. The IMF conducts a review on the Philippines twice a year under the PPM, the last of which was completed in early August.

In a report released yesterday following the conclusion of the mid-2006 PPM discussions in Washington on Oct. 11, the IMF executive directors commended the Philippine authorities for the country's strong macroeconomic performance—including robust growth, moderating inflation, and an improved external position—as well as the progress made in structural reforms.

"While stronger fundamentals have made the Philippines more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks, (the IMF) cautioned that important vulnerabilities remain," the report said. "Although on a declining path, the public debt is still high, with external commercial borrowing requirements continuing to be sizeable."

4 SME firms get incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS recently approved incentives for four small- and medium-scale projects worth a total of P76 million.

BOI documents showed that the biggest of the four was New Hope Central Luzon Agriculture's P65.1-million venture into the production of animal and aqua feeds.

A second project is Blastasia Inc.'s P6.4-million business process outsourcing project.

A third project is Filipino-Australian firm Artepietra Inc.'s P3-million project to produce decorative items.

The fourth project is Sagara Metro Plastic Industrial Corp.'s P1.1-million venture into the production of plastic products, primarily components for automotive wiring harness.

All four projects were registered with nonpioneer status, which qualifies the firms to tax holidays of up to four years, duty-free importation of capital goods, as well as other fiscal and nonfiscal perks.

Cebu traders want no holiday

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—LOCAL EXporters on Thursday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to exempt them from the four-day holiday in Cebu brought on by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit here in December.

In a brief meeting with the President at the Mactan Air Base, shortly after she arrived here for a two-day visit, the Cebu exporters also asked Ms Arroyo to act on their concerns, which include the strengthening of the peso.

According to Philexport Cebu president Apolinar Suarez, the President had assured exporters she would respond to all their concerns as soon as possible.

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Francis Monera, in a separate interview, said the President had agreed, in principle, to the request to exempt exporters from the holiday.

The exporters informed the President that her declaration of a four-day holiday in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu—host-cities of the Asean summit—would adversely affect their businesses.

The President declared a holiday in the three Metro Cebu cities from December 11-14 as requested by Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

Osmeña explained that it would be easier to manage the security of Asean delegates if the people in Cebu would go on vacation during the summit.

"Exporters can not go on vacation for four days," Suarez said. "We could not stop work, or else, we incur big losses."

Suarez noted that export companies would incur additional expenses if they operate during the holidays since they will have to pay workers 30 percent holiday pay.

Suarez said they also asked Ms Arroyo to exempt the Bureau of Customs and other government agencies serving the export sector from the holiday.

Monera said the exemption forms part of the mechanism to help the export sector amid the peso's appreciation.

Biofuel law to boost sugar trade

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE BIOFUEL BILL—NOW just a few steps away from being enacted into law—is expected to stabilize the Philippine sugar industry, which is presently buffeted by fluctuating world market prices.

The approval of the biofuel bill would provide a bigger market for Philippine sugarcanes, which would be turned into ethanol—an energy resource much cheaper than fossil fuels, Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Christopher Ledesma yesterday said.

He said that the measure, once enacted, would present a chance for the local sugar industry to further diversify the product, and ease the pressure on raw and refined sugar brought on by price fluctuations in the domestic and foreign markets.

Ledesma said that the planned expansion of farm areas planted with sugarcanes, currently at 380 hectares nationwide, could now be pursued after years of limited investments from local industry members.

He also assured the people that sugar for food would still be the agency's priority.

Directors of listed firms under tight SEC scrutiny

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission (SEC) has tightened its watch on publicly owned firms, scrutinizing the qualifications of independent directors.

SEC commission secretary Gerard Lukban said that the SEC next week will issue a notice that will require all independent directors to submit a certification under oath that they possess all the qualifications outlined under the Securities Regulation Code.

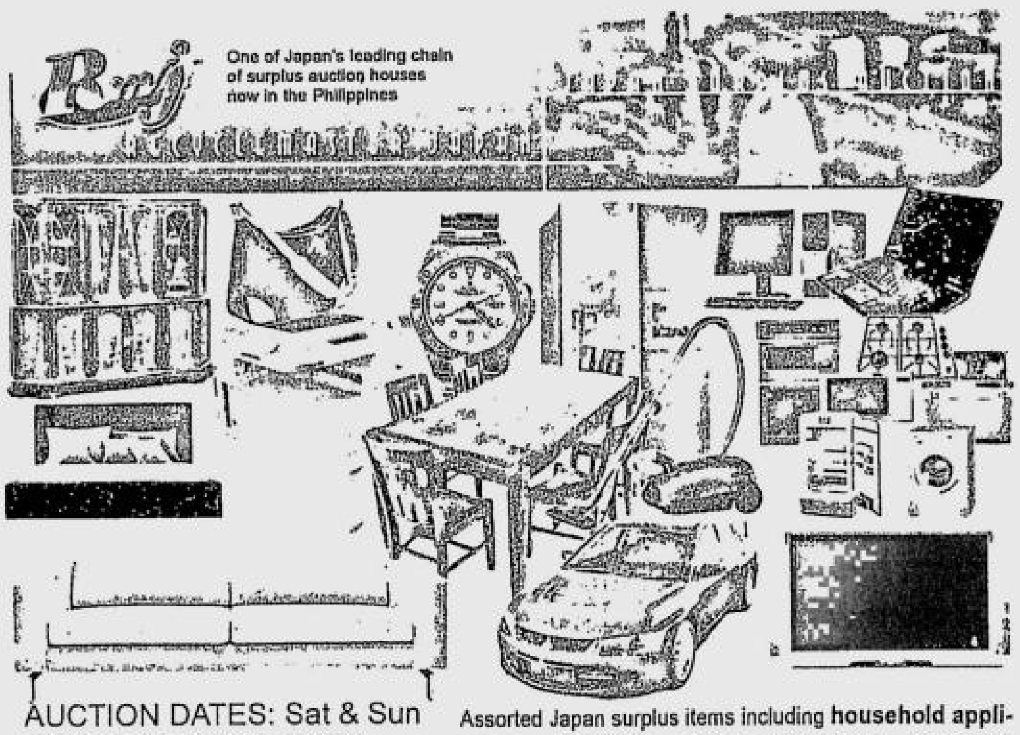
The new SEC requirement was approved by the commission en banc last Thursday. The SEC will publish the notice in newspapers.

The certification shall contain an enumeration of the independent director's affiliations or positions in all organizations, corporate or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly give rise to conflict of interest or violate the country's securities laws.

The requirement arose after some parties questioned the qualifications of independent directors in certain listed firms.

Under the law, the independent director should not be an officer, or a substantial shareholder, of a corporation or of its related firms. He should also not be a relative of any director, officer or substantial shareholder of the corporation.

The SEC early this year "reprimanded" Equitable PCI Bank and a number of its former directors and officers for violations of securities rules when the bank appointed its independent directors.



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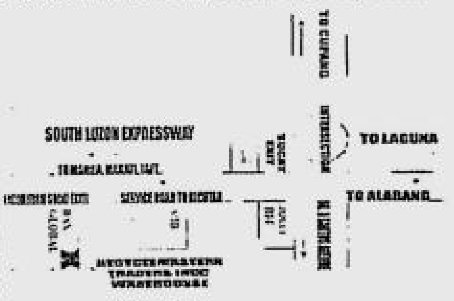

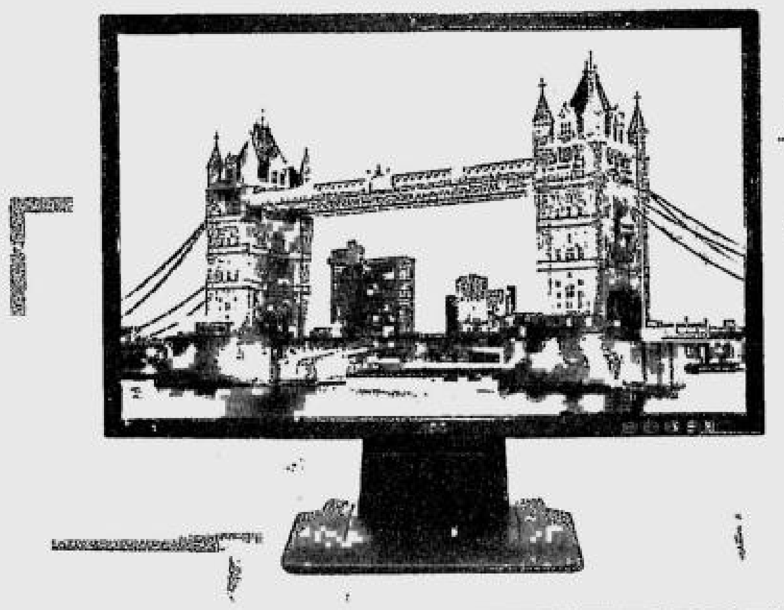

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3. Old monitors to be traded-in should be in working condition.
4. Traded-in monitors shall be donated to the *Build-A-Laboratory* program of the Management Information Systems Association (MISA) of the Ateneo de Manila University.
5. Promo is nationwide.
6. Promo period is from October 5 to December 31, 2006.

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 4319 SERIES OF 2006

*Suggested retail price is at Php11,999.00, less the old monitor trade-in value of Php2,000.00

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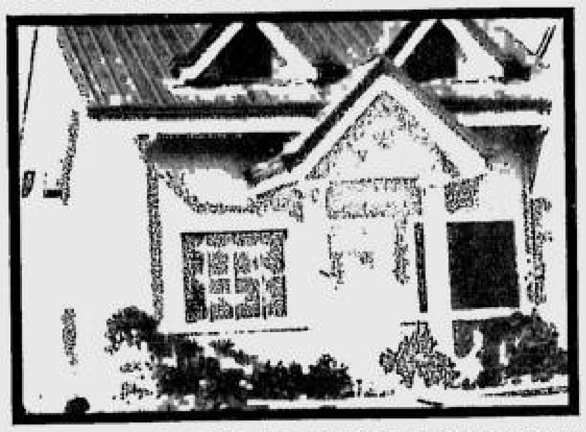

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If you miss these times then leave your name and number at the office or contact **anthony@naturaltherapyservices.com.au**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that there is an outstanding warrant of arrest for Ms. Ma. Cristina S. Castro of 203 Interior Gov. A. Pascual St., Sipac, Navotas, Metro Manila, whose picture appears below, that was issued by Branch 74, Regional Trial Court of Malabon City in Criminal Case No. 34669-MN for Qualified Theft.

Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

MR. FRANCISCO BACIERTO, JR.
Equitable PCI Tower 1,
corner dela Costa
and Makati Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. 878-4425 or 840-7625

(PDI–Oct. 14, 2006)

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE CORPORATION** policy forms were lost:

1. Fire Policy Forms from 12201 to 12210, 12212 to 12215, 12216 to 12225
2. Commercial Vehicle Policy Forms from 12511 to 12520
3. Private Car Policy Forms from 12181 to 12200, 12501 to 12510, 12724
4. Certificate of Cover # from 245353 to 245400, 245503 to 245550, 50001 to 51000, 245410

The foregoing policy forms are hereby void; any transaction involving any of the said policy forms shall not be honored by and shall not bind **MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE CORPORATION.**

(PDI - Oct. 14, 2006)

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY WATER DISTRICT
City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

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Senior Engineer A	16	P 14,098.00 + allowances

- Bachelor's degree in Sanitary Engineering
- Registered Sanitary Engineer (RAS 1080) With one year of relevant experience & four hours of relevant training

Apply in person at: San Jose del Monte City Water District
Road 1, Minuyan, Sapang Palay
City of San Jose del Monte Bulacan

Bring comprehensive resumé and handwritten letter of application

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (4)

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- Marketing, Mass Communication, Advertising graduate or related course
- Good communication/negotiation skills

DISTRIBUTOR / MONITORING SUPERVISOR (1)

- Graduate of any 4 yr course
- With at least 1-2 yrs supervisory experience
- Methodical, hardworking, meticulous with work
- Can work on weekends
- Knowledgeable in Video Equipments
- Male, not more than 28 yrs. old, computer literate

PURCHASER (1)

- Graduate of Engineering or related course
- With at least 1-2 yrs experience in related field
- Proactive, analytical, computer literate, good negotiation skills and hardworking
- Male/Female, not more than 28 yrs old

Submit your resumé w/ 2x2 photo, Transcript of Record, Employment Certificates & NBI Clearance

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(The Indicative Selling Price covers only the 55.945% ownership/shares of the Bank on the property)

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- **Heavy Equipment Mechanic**
- **Heavy Equipment Operator**
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All above positions require minimum 5 years experience. Preferably Nueva Ecija residence

REQUIREMENTS Comprehensive Resumé
Brgy. Clearance
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SSS No.

Apply personally @ Calisitan Science City of Muñoz Nueva Ecija
Contact Nos. : 0922-3404993 or 0918-8236083
Contact Person : Evangeline or Joanna

NOTICE OF THE DISSOLUTION OF ECODE INC.

BY SHORTENING CORPORATE TERM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON AUGUST 31, 2006, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ECODE INC. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATIONS CORPORATE TERM TO END EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 01, 2006. THE APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT OF THE CORPORATION ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHORTEN ITS CORPORATE TERM WILL BE FILED WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION. THIS SHALL SERVE AS NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION BY SHORTENING ITS CORPORATE TERM.

VERA STO. TOMAS
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PDI – October 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

ROSALINDA ABUEG ROCA

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 12, 2006
and her husband, ***Benjamin, Sr.*** *and son,* ***Jun.***

Her daughters and their families:

Nora & Modesto Mercado
Manolo Abendaño, Katrina and **Keith Stagner**

Cynthia & Ramon Tan
Raymond and **Mary Jennifer, Jennifer** and **Gerald Tan,**
Ray Michael
Michelle Denise and **Dana Beatrice**

Mildred Ramos
Rommel and **Catrina, Romulo, Jr.**

request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio Church.

AMANDA MONTEMAYOR PLATON

(1915 – 2006)

of Alaminos, Pangasinan

has peacefully joined our Creator on October 12, 2006 at the age of 90.

Her husband, **JOSE "PEPITO"**; their children and spouses **PONS** & Mercy Sembrano, **CELY, JING** & Gene Obnial, **BOOTS** & Dennis Rothgaber, **JOY** & Pris Cuenca; her grandchildren **Chezky** & Nino, **Josephine** & Orlando, **Jon** & Jarms, **Petal** & Raymond, **Arna** & Adrian, **Satin, Patricia** & Paal, **Gino** & Marisol, **Paulo** (†), **Amanda, Libby** & Matt, **Andrew, Jap-C** & Michelle, **Mikki, Risa, Ana, Karla**; her great grandchildren **Mandy, Kheidy, Nikko, Alexa, Ryanne, Aidan, Patrick, Tristan, Iñigo, Paulo** and **Sofia**, her surviving brother, **Nicanor Montemayor** and sister, **Elsa Anievas**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the CHRIST THE KING PARISH, Greenmeadows, Pasig, M.M.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 o'clock morning Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donation to the Lay Formation Center, Diocese of Boac, Marinduque will be appreciated.

OBITUARIES

IN LOVING MEMORY
ON THE THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

DANIEL EMMANUEL U. DE GALA

"TOTING"

August 20, 1986 – October 14, 2003

His father **Daniel, Dolores** – mother, **Anicia** - grandmother, **Daisy Fidela, Donna & Dolores Anicia** – sisters, **Daniel Sergio** – brother request relatives, friends and the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for him today October 14, 2006 at:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church (Sariaya, Quezon)	6:00 a.m.
San Pedro Bautista Parish Church (Candelaria, Quezon)	6:00 a.m.
Monastery of St. Claire in Sariaya (Sariaya, Quezon)	6:00 a.m.
San Sebastian Cathedral (Lipa City)	6:00 a.m.

Board of Directors & Staff
of
Global Terminals & Development Inc.
Global Ship Management & Marine Services Inc.
and
Global Military Support Ltd. Pte.

deeply condole with the family of

Gloria Bustamante Vda. de Baldeo

who died in Ontario, Canada on October 9, 2006
in the good grace of her Divine Mercy.

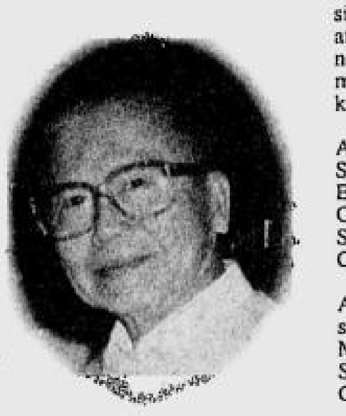
Her bereaved children **Grace, Rose, Minerva, Regore, Celso, Eliseo, Regina** and their spouses, surviving brother **Pablo B. Bustamante** and grandchildren & great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Highlands Funeral Homes Ontario, Canada and shall be brought to San Juan The Baptist Church – Tiaong, Quezon in the afternoon of October 21, 2006.

A Holy Mass will be held at 2:00 p.m. on October 22, 2006 and interment will follow at Tiaong Cemetery.

Roberto A. Angeles

June 9, 1917 to October 11, 2006



Hinihiling ng kanyang pamilya, si *Maria Martha* at *Angelito* at *Marilyn*, *Mayeth*, *Junjun* at *Mylene* na mag-alay ang mga kaibigan at mambabasa ng mga panalangin para sa kapayapaan ng kaniyang kaluluwa.

Ang kaniyang mga labi ay mananatili sa Santuario de San Jose Mortuary, East Greenhills hanggang ika-15 ng Oktubre, 2006 at dadalhin sa Diocesan Shrine ng Immaculate Conception, Naic Cavite.

Ang libing ay sa ika-15 ng Oktubre, 2006 sa Naic Catholic Cemetery pagkatapos ng Misa sa ika-2 ng hapon sa Diocesan Shrine ng Immaculate Conception, Naic, Cavite.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

Message of Thanks

Gloria Bustamante Vda. de Baldeo

Died in Ontario, Canada and peacefully joined our Lord last October 9, 2006 in Ontario, Canada.

Her loving children **Grace**, **Rose**, **Minerva**, **Regore**, **Celso**, **Eliseo**, **Regina** and their spouses, grandchildren & great grandchildren and surviving brother **Pablo B. Bustamante**.

Warmly extend their deepest gratitude and appreciation for the prayer and other pious acts offered to the Almighty for the eternal repose of her soul.

May she rest in peace
in your continued prayers.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His onlybegotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

DEATH NOTICE

ARNEL C. JACOBE

Died in the grace of our Lord on October 10, 2006 at the age of 33.
His remain lies at # 1442 M. Hizon St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Sizes of Motorized Gate Valves under FGJ 31283 & FGJ 60839
Approved Budgets:
PHP 13,500,000.00 – FGJ 31283
PHP 2,600,000.00 – FGJ 60839

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** starting **October 13, 2006**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 19, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management's Office Wall Clock Time) of November 9 (for FGJ 31283) and 16 (for 60839), 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI--Oct. 14, 2006)

BUSINESS

Tuna sector to get big boost from Alliance IPO

Third company to list on the exchange this year

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE UPCOMING INITIAL PUBLIC OFfering of tuna firm Alliance Tuna International Inc. is seen to drum up investor interest in the local industry and boost the country's chances of overtaking Thailand as the world's biggest exporter of tuna products.

Alliance Tuna yesterday obtained the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval for the registration of the company's shares, which would pave the way for its maiden offering at the local bourse next month.

If plans push through, it will be the third company to list on the exchange this year after First Generation Corp. and CitisecOnline.

In documents filed with the SEC, Alliance Tuna said it was expecting to raise between P149 million and P199 million from the offering.

The company, in an offering circular filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, said it would offer 134 million new shares at between P1.20 and P1.60 per share.

Johnathan Y. Dee, president and chief executive of Alliance Tuna, yesterday said investors were aware of the substantial growth posted by the Philippine tuna industry in the past several years.

He said it was now considered the second biggest in the world after Thailand in terms of combined fishing and processing output.

According to the Confederation of Philippine Tuna Industry, the sector accounts for 120,000 jobs and export earnings of at least $180 million a year.

The group also said the country ranked second in the world in terms of tuna catch and third in terms of canned tuna production.

Dee said that aside from the rich fishing grounds in Mindanao, the industry has an advantage in the availability of support facilities including cold storage, can factories, label printers, product testing centers and fabrication shops.

He added that General Santos City, where Alliance Tuna and the majority of the companies engaged in the business were located, had caught the attention of investors.

"This interest was further boosted by the prospective entry into the local bourse of Alliance Tuna, which hopes to use the proceeds of its offering in financing its expansion program," Dee said.

Alliance Tuna had tapped Abacus Capital and Investment Corp. to serve as its issue manager and underwriter. The plan is to hold its offering from Oct. 23 to 30 and list on Nov. 8.

The company is a partnership between Filipino and Thai entrepreneurs.

Alliance Tuna is engaged in the production of processed canned tuna, catering to both the food service and retail markets.

Its products are carried by various brands in 40 countries spread over five continents, mostly in Europe.

In the first semester of the year, the company posted net sales of P768.3 million, up 36 percent from year-ago level.

The company's facilities in General Santos are capable of producing 200 metric tons of tuna products daily and employ about 2,000 workers.

The city is touted as the country's "tuna capital" and is considered a strategic location for tuna activities because of its proximity to the western central Pacific Ocean, which accounts for about 60 percent of the total tuna catch from the Pacific and about 40 percent of the global tuna haul.

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PROPERTY

Developers to woo 400,000 Filipinos overseas to buy property in RP

By Tessa R. Salazar

SOME 130 DEVELopers will transform the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City into an industry exposition to entice nearly half a million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and Filipino migrants to buy a piece of real estate in the country.

According to "Philippine Properties Festival 2007" overall chair Rose Basa, the strategy of focusing on the OFW market as well as the local market has kept the local real estate industry afloat even after the disastrous 1997 Asian market crash, and "despite the intermittent political upheavals in the local scene."

The property festival is scheduled from Jan. 11 to 14.

During this period, Basa says the festival hopes to offer Filipino migrants and OFWs practical and feasible ways to invest in the Philippines, and further boost the buying frenzy of OFWs for local property.

Basa reveals that up to 60 percent of new property projects in the Philippines are being snapped up by *balikbayans* and OFWs. This is an indication that the primary goal of many Filipinos overseas for going abroad was already achieved.

"Filipinos (working abroad) still want to go back here to buy properties," she notes.

Vic Fernandez, president of the Philippine Association of Service Exporters, predicts that more than 400,000 OFWs and Filipino migrants will visit the country from November to January. The association counts 720 out of the 900 accredited recruitment agencies in the Philippines as its members.

Road shows

"Eighty five percent of big-time developers are doing road shows around the world and are trying to penetrate the foreign and OFW market," Basa says.

These developers have two reasons to go out of their way and follow the OFW flock: OFWs' sheer numbers and their volume of income.

There are about nine million Filipinos working overseas. Of this, 4 million are employed on a fixed short-term contract (which means that they will have to come back to the Philippines after the contract is finished).

Annual remittances of OFWs have been upward of $11 billion. In the first semester of 2006 alone, OFWs remitted $6 billion to their families back home.

According to exposition organizer Philippine Properties Festival, at least one member of a Filipino family or an extended relative works overseas. As such, roughly 25 percent of the Philippine labor force is assigned outside the country's borders.

Developers under one roof

The January 2007 expo at the Mall of Asia will bring developers—unified by a common target market—under one roof. Themed "Sariling Bahay sa Sariling Bayan," it will feature housing packages and real estate projects specifically suited for all types of overseas workers and *balikbayans*. This means the entire spectrum of products—from socialized, middle-class properties to upscale developments and various property investments in golf and country clubs, hotels, and leisure developments—are up for grabs.

To achieve an interactive, festival-like feel, lectures on securing permits, financing, interior design, budgeting and livelihood seminars will be conducted, topped off by live band performances and other entertainment fare.

And what's a festival without a pageant? The expo will crown its own "Ms Real Estate Philippines" and she would serve as the "ambassadress of goodwill" in road shows abroad.

Basa reveals that the contestants, numbering a hundred, will be drawn from the 40 participating developers, and will carry such names as Ms Megaworld, Ms CrownAsia, or Ms Brittany.

Naturally, the pageant will be televised, Basa says. "She'll put a face to the real property industry," she says.

Basa also says the expo will attempt to retrace the country's housing history in its "Kasaysayan ng Bahayan sa Pilipinas." This information campaign will be undertaken with the help of the Department of Tourism, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

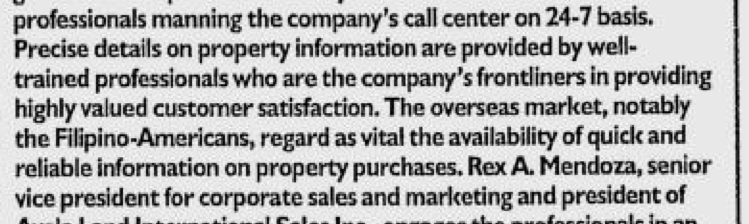
'Isang Daang Bahay'

Basa, who is also board chair of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Associations social housing foundation, says the festival proceeds would go to the foundation to help fund "the effort to build more houses for the poor."

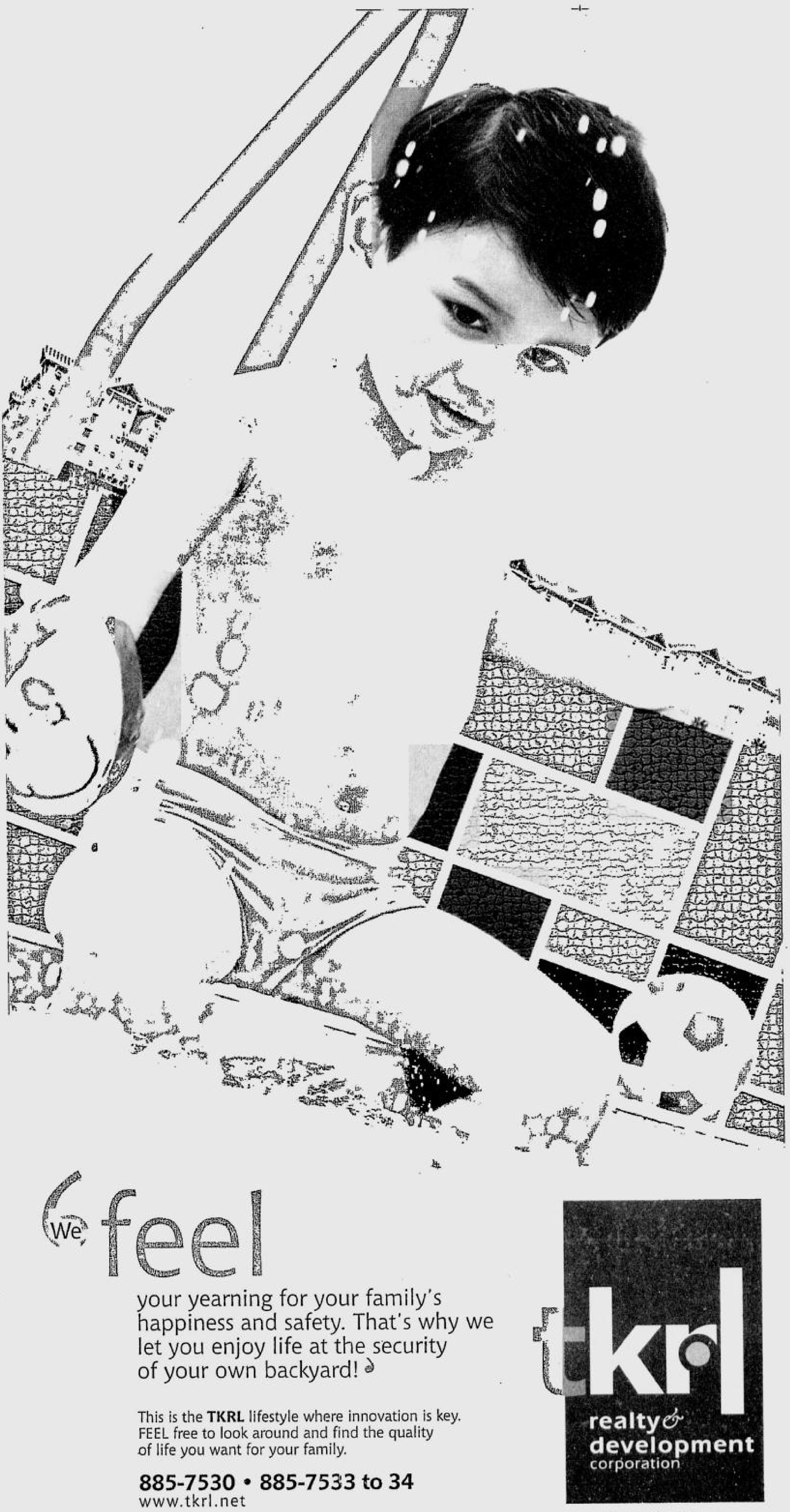
Basa is the proponent of the "Isang Daang Bahay Bawat Bayan" project for all the country's municipalities.

"(The housing) backlog now stands between 3.6 and 4.2 million units. Simply put, if there are 1,712 cities and municipalities, and each municipality and city produces even 100 units (this year), there will be 170,000 houses. We (aim to) serve as a catalyst for these municipalities to embark into housing," she says.

With potentially hundreds of thousands of OFWs and migrants chipping in their own two cents' worth to the effort, Basa's project promises to hit the ground running.



PRECISE ANSWERS FROM AYALA LAND
Straightforward property deals begin with straightforward answers. Overseas buyers of Ayala Land's quality property offerings get definite responses on their queries from real estate professionals manning the company's call center on 24-7 basis. Precise details on property information are provided by well-trained professionals who are the company's frontliners in providing highly valued customer satisfaction. The overseas market, notably the Filipino-Americans, regard as vital the availability of quick and reliable information on property purchases. Rex A. Mendoza, senior vice president for corporate sales and marketing and president of Ayala Land International Sales Inc., engages the professionals in an on-floor reportage of the day's activities.



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Reducing construction waste through green design

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

WE ALL LIVE IN A WASTEFUL SOCIETY. A close look at our trash and landfills will reveal a lot about our consumer mentality. In advanced countries, junkyards are filled with slightly used appliances, electronic gadgets, light fixtures and all kinds of contraptions. Most of these are still usable but have been outdated by newer, flashier models. Less developed countries are no less guilty. Their trash is also made up of consumer items that are perhaps more worn out but just the same, continue to add to and pile up in landfills.

In some European countries, manufacturers are required by law to provide clear instruction manuals on how to operate products. This is done to minimize breakage of products that malfunction or get damaged due to improper use. And when these products break down, they end up in landfills.

In construction, an average 200-square-meter house dumps about 8,000 pounds of construction debris in the landfill. Many people have gotten used to the sight of building constructions with their mountain of debris. They have accepted this waste as an inevitable part and parcel of the building industry. While this is true to some extent, many sectors now are studying and implementing programs to cut down on construction waste.

Concerned about waste

Why be concerned about construction waste?

First, most of the waste from construction ends up in landfills or dumpsites. This is an additional burden to our overflowing dumpsites. What is worse is that chemicals and other solvents such as the ones used for wood treatment and finishes may contaminate the soil and water.

Second, construction waste represents excess building materials that are produced using enormous amounts of energy, manpower, and raw materials. More waste means more resources thrown away.

Third, construction waste also means additional hauling costs and material purchasing costs.

Practices promoting waste

Excessive and unnecessary use of wood for scaffolding is a classic example of building practice that promotes waste. Once the construction is completed, most of this lumber ends up either as firewood or debris.

Poor workmanship that must be corrected at the expense of more wasted materials is another common practice.

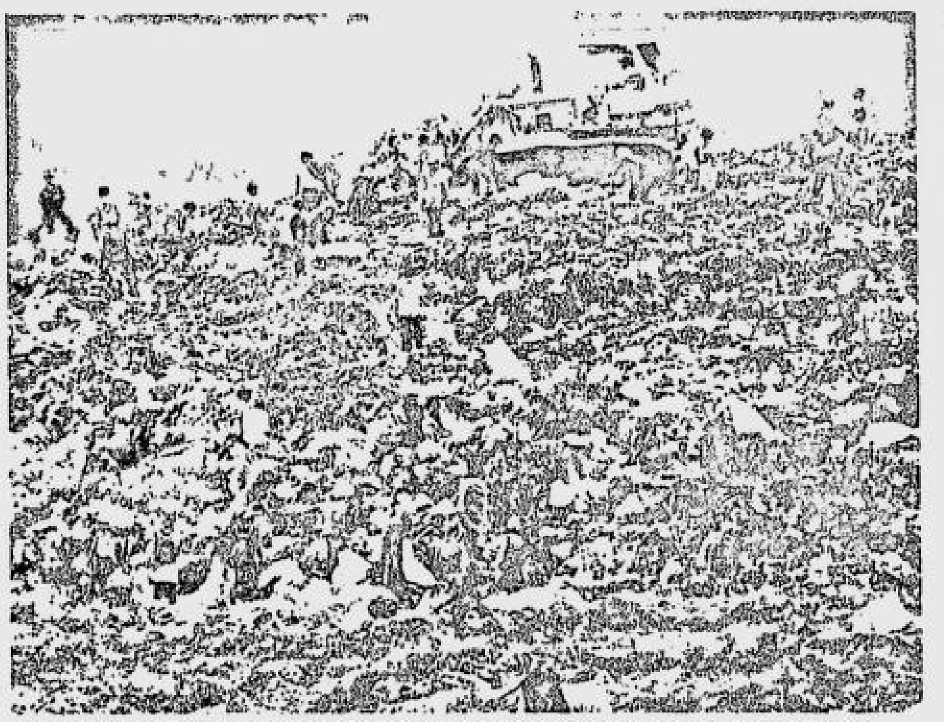
Using inferior materials that are costly to maintain, repair and replace is also a very common reason building construction accounts for one of the biggest contributors of waste in our dumpsites.

What can be done?

Burning construction waste is definitely not the answer. It pollutes the air and adds to the heavily polluted air shed. After the recent typhoon, this is what we see in many places today as many people burn piles of dead leaves and trash, completely indifferent to its harmful effects on the environment.

- **Good planning and design.** The first step needed to reduce construction waste is through good planning and design. By using standard sizes, wastage will be minimized. Accurate ordering of materials is also a must.

Designs that use materials efficiently should be selected. In some cases, details are impractical, using more materials than is necessary. Clean simple lines are more elegant and use far fewer materials.



THE CONSTRUCTION industry, using almost half of all raw materials annually worldwide, contributes heavily to dumpsites and landfills.

THE GARBAGE BOOK, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

A waste reduction program can be set up at the start of the project, so that waste-intensive problem areas can be analyzed and addressed.

An on-site separation strategy can be undertaken to initiate the waste reduction program. This may require extra effort in the beginning but once it is started, the on-site preparation can help reduce waste without much cost.

In the case of scaffoldings, it is preferable to use metal framework that can be reused over and over again, saving time and money for the builder.

Poor workmanship can also avoided if only qualified and competent workers are hired to do construction work especially for critical areas like structural and finishing works.

- **Suppliers.** Packaging of materials should also be considered. If possible, have suppliers deliver materials in returnable containers or to have materials delivered with minimal packaging.

Delivery of substandard or excess materials can be returned outright to the suppliers to cut on-site waste even before they enter the construction phase.

- **Deconstruction.** Another method to cut down on waste is through deconstruction. This is a system where structures are taken apart with the aim of using the components and building materials. The objective is to cut the amount of materials that end up in landfills by reusing materials in new or existing buildings.
- **Demolition-salvaging companies.** Hiring demolition contractors is another option available to cut wastes. Most of these companies will provide the labor and equipment needed to dismantle building components so that they can be reused for other projects.
- **Preengineered products.** These are ready-made components in a variety of materials, styles and sizes that easily fit into most projects. By using these components, construction waste is greatly reduced since parts are simply screwed in place using precut, prefinished assemblies.
- **Proper storage of materials.** Materials on-site should be properly stored to prevent their exposure to the elements, especially during stormy weather conditions.

Once materials are rendered unusable, they end up as debris. This is also a common source of construction waste.

Other options to reduce waste

Giving excess building materials to charitable organizations or NGOs that are into building homes for the less privileged is a very good option that any community will appreciate.

Advertising in the newspapers can also be done to inform others about excess reusable materials that you may have.

Some companies allow their workers to dismantle and take materials for their own use.

For green buildings, waste can also mean, wasted space, that is, space that is not functional. It can also mean excessive space that is not used.

Finally, waste can only be drastically reduced if we alter our lifestyle by differentiating always what we need from what we want. That way, we only buy and use what is necessary and eliminate waste.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Successful woman finds perfect home at The Residences at Greenbelt

HAVING A PLACE OF ONE'S OWN IS THE ultimate dream for the successful woman. It is a symbol of her independence—the sign that says she has arrived.

To celebrate today's successful women, Ayala Land Premier recently unveiled the latest model unit of The Residences at Greenbelt's Manila Tower. One of the most coveted addresses in the metropolis, The Residences at Greenbelt offers the comforts of high-rise living and the excitement of being part of the Greenbelt Lifestyle Center.

True reflection

With this, Ayala Land Premier commissioned interior designer Tina Periquet to design the new one-bedroom executive model unit. A successful woman herself—she is a graduate of the Pratt Institute of Design in New York and the principal partner of the renowned design company Periquet Galicia Inc.—Periquet set her sights on creating a design that truly reflects the personality of the consummate career woman. "She is strong yet feminine, assertive but has a softer side, refined and very much in control," Periquet describes.

This duality of characteristics is immediately felt as soon as one enters the unit. Given its small and almost square shape, the challenge was to come up with a design that maximizes and even gives the impression of a large space. "The solution we came up with was to put a small box—the foyer—inside a larger box which is the living area," relates Periquet. "From the foyer you emerge into the larger living room, and that already creates a sense of spaciousness, a perception that each space is different because each provides a distinctive experience."

The intimately scaled foyer is subtly and ingeniously lit. Hanging on the foyer walls are Chinese brush-ink paintings of a landscape filled with growing grass. "It's painted on canvas and the light behind the panels give that sense of luminosity, that feeling of walking through a painting," Periquet says.

Feeling of vastness

The passage through the softly lighted foyer only serves to enhance that feeling of vastness as one emerges into a wide passage just outside a central pavilion. "This is a multitasking space; it's a dining hall as well as the entrance hall," Periquet says. Again, the pavilion creates that feeling of moving from inside to outside, as the space now moves freely into the main living area. "We used a darker shade of white in the ceiling of the pavilion to create that perimeter of light and dark," Periquet notes, "so that if you come out of the pavilion into the living area, you get that feeling of expansiveness and airiness associated with being outside."

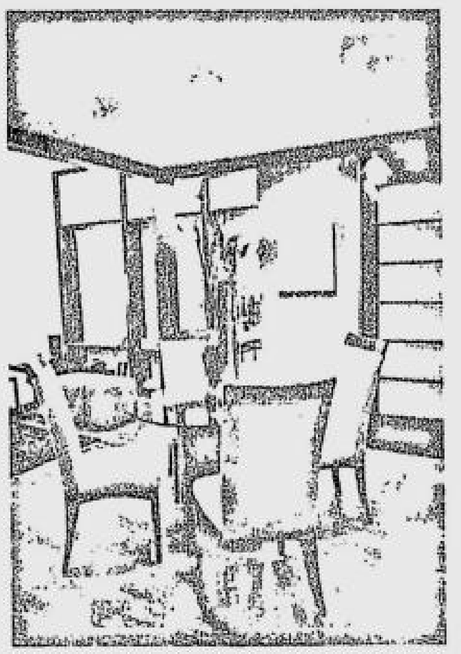
The pavilion wall is flanked by sliding glass doors that serve to conceal the bedroom beyond. "We used glazed panels for the doors which are translucent, allowing light to pass through. These provide that consciousness of space behind the walls without necessarily taking away one's privacy," Periquet says. A portion of the wall is also made of latticed wood which, while creating a barrier, also allows one to see the space beyond. "The mirror directly behind that lattice wall also enhances that feeling of space," Periquet adds.

Choice of furniture

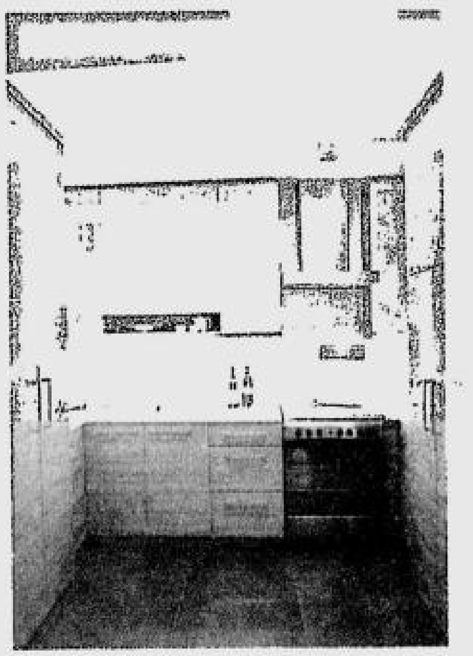
Even the choice of furniture and other accoutrements contributed to the feeling of having a large and expansive unit. "We used an 8-foot long sofa—which is longer than the regular couch, because the thought of being able to fit that large sofa gives the impression of a huge space," Periquet relates. Flanking the sofa are lamps suspended from a thin metal cord, freeing space in the side tables. One wall is bordered with dark wood that smartly incorporates a storage and display area underneath the low sill. "This would make a nice work center, so we also designed a desk tray with a cantilevered slab for your laptop," Periquet says.

Other design elements serve to provide warmth and refinement. "We chose to have high contrast in our color palette, using ivory and black," Periquet says. "Pure black and pure white can be very cold and clinical, so we warmed it up by having a tone and texture on the whites. Also, the thin metal ribs on the doors, in particular, give that look of refinement amid massive solidity—and that echoes the strength and refined, subtle nuance that marks a modern woman," Periquet shares.

The use of wood was also well calibrated. "Wood can enlarge and warm even the most clinical of spaces," Periquet says, "and too much wood can give that musky, den-like feel. Because the unit had a bamboo floor, which has medium warm, reddish finish, Periquet decided to utilize wood selectively, using dark stained wood like mahogany for structural elements, and narra for the furniture.



A CENTRAL pavilion serves as both a dining and entrance hall.



WOOD and glass make for a sleek and functional kitchen.

All in all, the new model unit presents an inviting and exciting living space that sums up that many different facets of today's successful woman. "It is really a study of space unfolding, opening up and revealing more aspects of itself," Periquet relates.

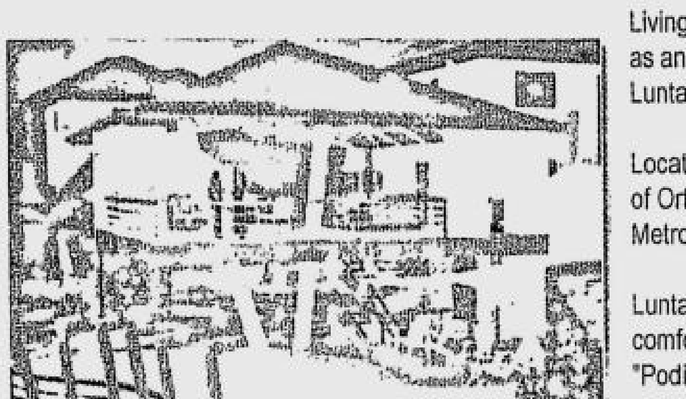
Most desirable address

Today, The Residences at Greenbelt remains as the most desirable address in the metropolis, as it offers the comforts of high-rise living set amid the gorgeous expanse of Greenbelt Park. With its direct integration to the Makati Central Business District, The Residences at Greenbelt also affords its residents with a variety of work, play and relaxation options that truly makes it a universe of high living.

The Residences at Greenbelt embodies all the values held dear by Ayala Land Premier, the new name for top-end developments of Ayala Land providing exclusivity, security, ultimate comfort and privacy. It continues Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses. With its superior customer care and property management, Ayala Land Premier ensures exclusivity and value over time.

For more information about The Residences at Greenbelt, please call 728-7000, log on to www.theresidencesatgreenbelt.com, or e-mail ask@ayalalandpremier.com. Model units are available for viewing at the third level, Greenbelt 3.

LUNTALA VALLE VERDE : REDEFINING MODERN CITY LIVING



Community Center

Living and working in a fast-paced metropolitan area need not be a stressful experience. Envisioned as an exclusive, low-density townhouse development that caters to the lifestyle choices of its residents, Luntala Valle Verde is private and secure, making it a perfect haven from city stress.

Located inside Valle Verde 6 in the heart of Pasig City, Luntala Valle Verde is enviably set at the corner of Ortigas and Greenmeadows Avenues -- making this new enclave mere minutes away from many of Metro Manila's most popular destinations.

Luntala Valle Verde offers modern, yet classic Asian Architecture that inspires a sense of peace and comfort. A unique offering that one will find in this 77-unit exclusive townhouse development are the "Podium Units". First of its kind in the Philippines, this unit model will feature a podium that is built above ground and will provide an additional entry to the townhouse -- this also serves as a safe playground for toddlers and young children. It will be accented by pocket gardens to create a natural ambience that is perfect for community activities. The Podium Units also provide a private entrance for cars and family members, through the ground parking below.

Classic Model

Podium Model

The units at Luntala Valle Verde are designed to be adaptable and expandable, to suit various lifestyle needs. The development will also have its own Community Center, which will have a swimming pool and multi-purpose rooms.

Luntala Valle Verde is a premier development of Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership. With 75 years of experience in real estate development, Ortigas & Company is responsible for some of the well-planned and well-managed residential communities in the country today, including Greenmeadows, Valle Verde, Wack-Wack, and Greenhills subdivisions. It has also shown its savvy in commercial development, with Ortigas Center, Greenhills Shopping Center, and Tiendesitas at Frontera Verde. Ortigas & Company's multi-decade expertise in property development and management is a firm guarantee indeed of quality and integrity.

Excellent location, exceptional planning, and exclusive features set this upcoming community apart from the rest. At Luntala Valle Verde, modern city living truly takes on a new meaning!

LUNTALA

BIRCH model home

Banking on the next development corridor

By Charles E. Buban

RIZAL PROVINCE IS A key component of the Marikina-Rizal-Laguna-Quezon (Marilaque), a growth corridor located east of Metro Manila, which is being groomed as the next Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon (Calabarzon).

In fact, investors expect Marilaque to follow the footsteps of its counterpart in the south of Metro Manila within the next 10 years.

This is the reason four companies, namely Hongkong Land, Equitable PCI Bank, Metrobank and San Miguel Properties, decided to enter into a joint venture in developing a middle-income community in San Isidro, Antipolo City.

Developed by Jardine Properties Inc. (soon to be named Northpine Properties Inc.), Forest Ridge is located on Maguey road in Barangay San Isidro, Antipolo City.

2 phases

The development of the property will be divided into two phases with the first (7.8 hectares) to be composed of 231 lots, a commercial block and lots for shop houses.

The project will offer both lots only and house and lot packages with sizes ranging from 132 sq m (two-story, P1.003 million Aspen model unit) to 270 sq m (two-story, P2.052 million Birch model unit).

According to Jardine Properties, the development will capitalize on the property's northwestern slope where it offers a commanding view of Metro Manila as well as Manila Bay and the distant Mt. Samat in the Bataan peninsula.

Tropicalized American country

Due to its hilly terrain, high altitude and dense vegetation, Jardine Properties decided to adopt a tropicalized American country home character for Forest Ridge.

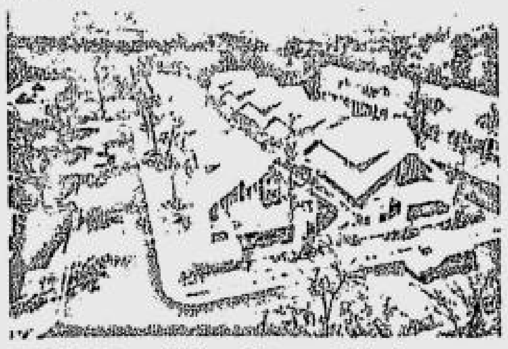
Jardine Properties describes the houses' design to be reminiscent of the vacation homes constructed in the Baguio area during the American period, which feature horizontally laid whitewashed wood boards or similar base material, and painted window frames with clear glass panes that is accentuated with colored pieces.

The exterior walls on the other hand, are combined with stone facing of lower walls.

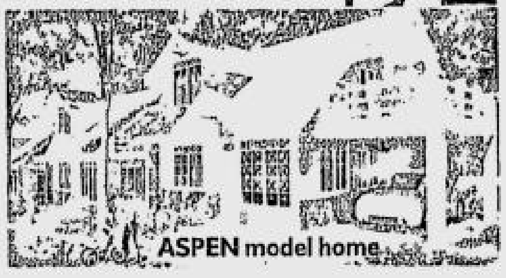
The developer believes such compact designs exude simple elegance and yet adapt very well to the pervading environment of Antipolo City.

Forest Ridge is about 4 kilometers to the newly opened Rustan's Shopwise supermarket as well as within a 4-km driving distance from two major provincial corridors—the Sumulong highway and the busy road leading to the other towns of the province including Teresa, Morong, Baras, and Pililla as well as Laguna towns.

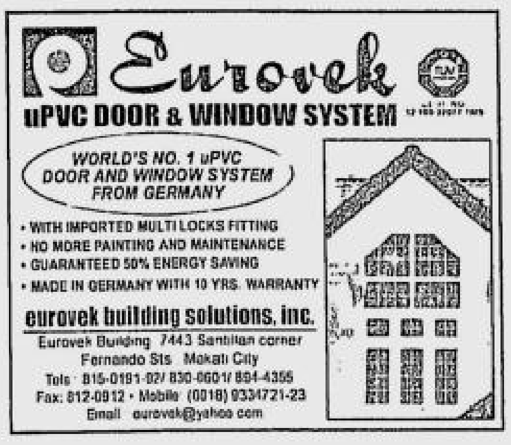
Indeed, once the industries and other establishments have moved in to the growth area, Jardine Properties assures that Forest Ridge location will be very advantageous.



ARTIST'S rendition of Forest Ridge's commanding view



ASPEN model home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FINDING YOU A BETTER PLACE

Just over two decades ago, condominiums were almost non-existent in Metro Manila. Today, apartment buildings are being built in every locality across the city.

The heightened interest in condos drives major property builders to come up with groundbreaking commercial units and multi-family residences catering to start-up families and young professionals.

Taking into consideration the growing demand for vertical residences, a new breed of real estate developer arises to answer the call.

TKRL Realty & Development Corporation is a real estate company specializing in mixed-use community developments. With its direct affiliation with Antel Land Holdings, the developer of up and coming Antel City at Makati Avenue and one of the major players in the EDSA Metro Rail Transit III project, TKRL is a realty developer to reckon with.

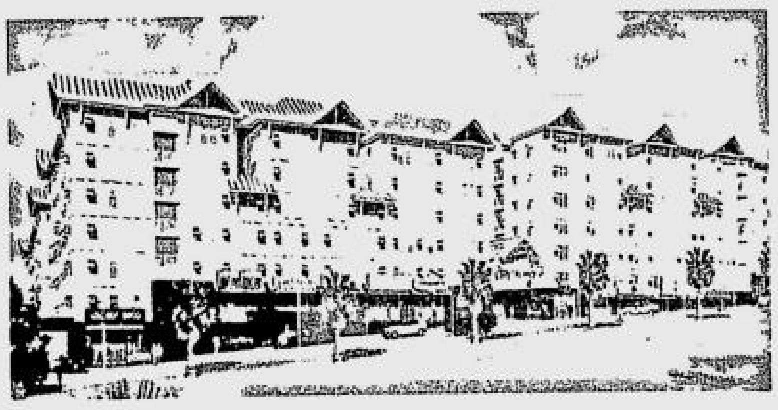
Rewriting the rule book of traditional design, TKRL is one of the forerunners in bringing together the modernity of western architecture and classic Oriental feel, thus, assuring property owners of more living space and adaptable floor area with lofty ceiling - a refuge amidst a verdant environment.

This inspired arrangement is applied in its principal projects: Centropolis Communities and Tresora Residences.

Living Life at the Centro

centropolis communities

This 1-hectare, self-contained community is a fusion of residential suites and commercial complex situated at Sucat, Muntinlupa City. It is composed of 4 low-rise cluster buildings offering reasonably priced 1 to 3 bedroom units.



If you're in for a shopping spree, it is good to know that rows of shops in a refreshing al-fresco setting are arranged right inside the enclave. You don't have to go far to savor life's simple pleasures.

Every unit owner can also take advantage of the amenities, complete with a gym studio, business center, indoor game room, children's play area and 5 interconnected swimming pools surrounded by romantic landscapes.

Define Your Life Space at

TRĒSORA RESIDENCES

Experience the convenience of a condo, the security of a subdivision, and the generous space of a townhouse, all in one natural setting. All these and more as you enter the soothing residences of Tresora.

Composed of medium-rise, townhouse-like condominium buildings, this 1.7-hectare community is conveniently set facing Las Piñas City's main thoroughfare to make access hassle-free.

Each building is a depiction of contemporary Asian-Tropical architecture, an elegant environment evident in its 1 to 3 bedroom units and bi-level penthouses.

Tresora Residences also features world-class amenities and services such as the fully equipped clubhouse, integrated party pool and kiddie pool, multi-function roof decks and a gated entrance with 24-hour security.

First Class Living Within Reach

What truly makes TKRL Realty and Development Corporation standout is that it renders personalized service and quality architecture, priced within reach.

With no reservation fees and easy monthly installments, TKRL offers affordable financing plans tailored to match your lifestyle and the needs of your family. Monthly amortizations are comparable to standard apartment rental rates, so you can own your home in no time.

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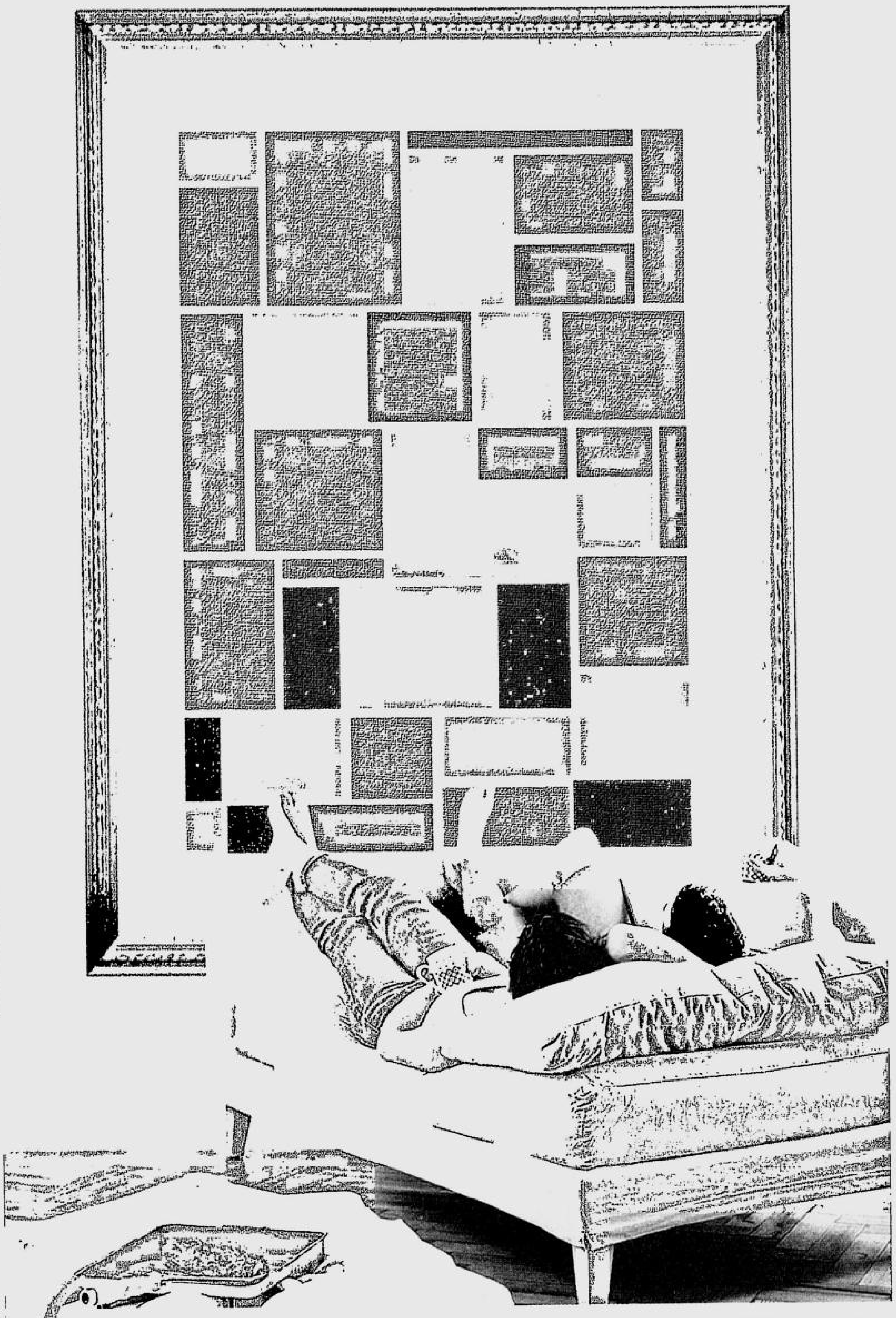

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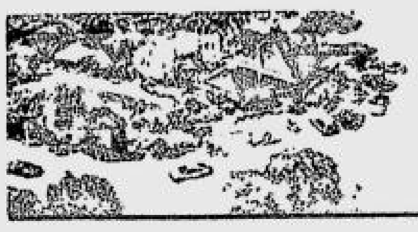
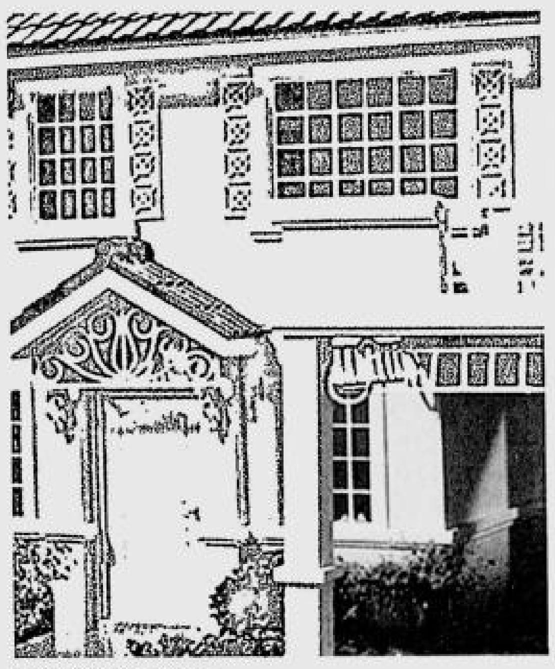


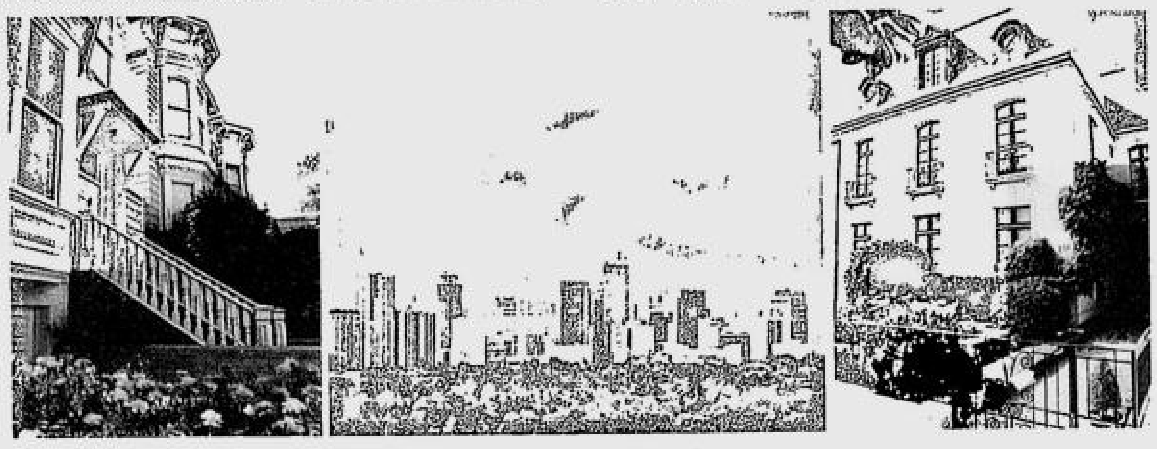
PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Camella pioneering and evolving



SMART city living in Fort Bonifacio



SAN Francisco Victorian-inspired enclaves that suit your lifestyle

THE FIRST TO OFfer value-for-money homes in masterplanned communities in the country, Camella Homes & Communities, "Paborito ng Pamilyang Pinoy," has always been fully committed to fulfill its vision of providing quality homes, well-planned communities, and home investment opportunities to millions of Pinoy families and Filipino workers overseas.

This is what Camella has been doing for the last 30 years... Camella has remained true to its vision.

Today, a major milestone adds to Camella's distinguished track record with the formation of Camella Prestige. With its focus on intricately designed residences, premium location, added diversity of home choices and top-of-the-line quality materials, Camella Prestige upholds the four cornerstones of a true, prestige residential community.

Camella Prestige presents the most luxurious options in real estate across the Philippines—from high-rise condominiums and exquisitely designed town homes, to grand, beautiful homes in lush landscaped settings. For its initial offering, Camella Prestige launches a one-of-its-kind development: Pacific Residences, one of the best property locations you can ever hope to find in the city.

Pacific Residences is in the heart of Manila's most prestigious urban setting, just right in Taguig, nestled within a 5-kilometer radius of Makati, just off the C-5 artery. The plush Fort Bonifacio is your next-door neighbor, with Market! Market! a mere 5-minute drive away. Head through to McKinley and you'd be along Ayala Avenue within 10 minutes. Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), to the south, is 15 minutes away, while Ortigas Center is a short 10-minute eastbound drive through C-5. Head north toward Libis and reach Quezon City in 20 minutes.

Camella, evolving

Camella continuously builds on its promise—to build homes you've been wishing for. Not only are Camella's communities getting bigger and better, every masterplan, every home design has to go through a rigorous development phase.

Every unique feature and amenity must satisfy the home buyer's distinct preference for a more superior yet unpretentious way of life. Every home has to provide security, privacy, comfort and convenience at every level, with the assurance of increased investment value over the long term.

Taking life to a higher level

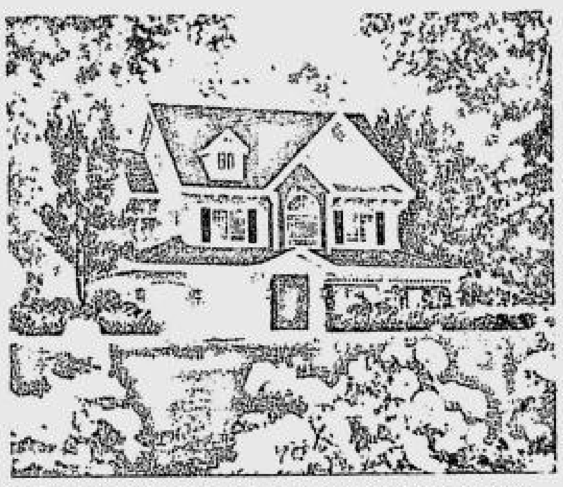
Uniquely, Pacific Residences combines various neighboring enclaves integrated by its inspiration, the Victorian style homes of San Francisco.

The masterplan for Pacific Residences puts together single family homes, two- and three-story townhouses, and a multi-story, low-rise residential condominium as well as a commercial area as neighboring enclaves.

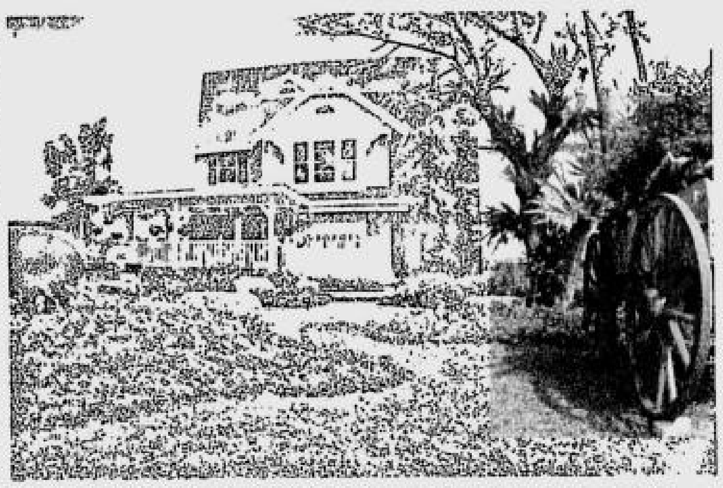
Enjoying life's feats

Pacific Residences will provide for your pleasure, little conveniences in life you can't afford not to have—salon appointments, relaxing spa treatments, tea with the ladies, or afternoon workouts with the boys. Soon, an enclave of shops, cafés and restaurants envisioned after Union Square will afford you long lunches or extended mid-afternoon coffee breaks at your leisure.

Moreover, within the property, a clubhouse, central parks, playgrounds and a swimming pool will cater to residents' entertainment and leisure needs. You can spend time with family and friends, enjoying well-spent time together. With Pacific Residences, Camella Prestige raises the standard for city development, making it a masterplanned achievement in city living.



THE AUGUSTA model home evokes a feel of the Old American South with its gabled roofs, tall evenly spaced windows, dormers and high ceiling.



GEORGIA Club's mural on the Sta. Rosa highway from SLEX to Tagaytay reflects the theme inspiration drawn from upper-crust life in the old American South.

GEORGIA CLUB

A masterplanned American South-inspired enclave

A FAST-RISING NEW RESIDENTIAL area of choice, the welcoming, breezy landscape, tall trees and wide expanses of Sta. Rosa are the perfect setting for Georgia Club, a gated enclave inspired by the privileged way of life of the aristocracy in the American South. The development is a product of a partnership between Brittany Corp., the maverick developer known for its master-planned, theme-inspired, upper-crust communities and MesaLand, pioneer developer in Sta. Rosa.

Georgia Club is an upscale community that combines old-world charm and world-class development providing its residents with what Brittany calls a "lifescape," a thematically influenced, total living environment that previously did not exist elsewhere and that elevates the enjoyment of life to a new level.

Deeply influenced by the gracious historic homes of Georgia, from Savannah to Athens, the portfolio of home designs of Georgia Club emphasizes the gracious American Southern architectural style.

Georgia Club is being built on 30 hectares initially, roughly rectangular in shape, in a generally northeast to southwest orientation on the left of the Sta. Rosa highway to Tagaytay from the South Luzon Expressway. The project is situated in a highly strategic location, adjacent to the area's other prime developments—Hacienda Sta. Elena, Brittany's Bellereve, Fontamara, Promenade and La Residencia.

Near essential developments

The residential hub is a mere 45-minute drive from the Makati CBD and a short 25-minute drive from Alabang either through the Sta. Rosa exit of the South Luzon Expressway or the newly opened Asia Brewery/Greenfield exit, enabling residents to avoid the traffic from industrialized areas of Laguna.

A HORSE-DRAWN carriage with colorful blooms and a spacious porch for neighborly activities

It is also near the best educational institutions—from pre-schools to universities and graduate schools—south of Metro Manila such as the Acacia School, De La Salle, St. Scholastica, Don Bosco and the Ateneo Graduate School. University of Sto. Tomas, the oldest university in Asia, will continue its heritage of excellence in education with the soon-to-rise 45-hectare campus and teaching hospital in Sta. Rosa. The new UST complex will boast of a scenic view of Mt. Makiling, thus ensuring an environment that is conducive to learning.

Georgia Club also allows residents the enjoyment of leisurely activities at neighboring premier golf courses and country clubs (such as the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club, Canlubang Golf and Country Club, and The Country Club just a stone's throw away), relaxation in nearby Tagaytay, or weekend breaks on the beaches of Batangas.

Better road infrastructures

The development of Georgia Club in the south is based on key reasons of available land for the development of upscale communities, freedom from congestion and pollution, and compared to the north, east and west of Metro Manila, there is a better road network. These infrastructures include:

- The South Luzon Expressway is the major southern artery to and from Makati, the country's premier business and financial district.
- The planned C-6 along Laguna de Bay will provide access from points north and east like Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Antipolo, Taguig and Makati to Parañaque, Alabang-Muntinlupa and other points south.
- From the Alabang-Zapote Road, the expanded, four-lane Daanghari highway is a corridor to the Molino-Paliparan Highway, which links the Coastal Road on the right, and Governor's Drive on the left, which in turn leads to Tagaytay or Batangas, and the Carmona Interchange on the SLEX.

On the other side, from Manila and Pasay, the Coastal Road or Manila-Cavite Expressway, complemented by the Diosdado Macapagal Highway, leads to Cavite and other points in Calabarzon.

Georgia Club is envisioned to attract executives of industrial enterprises in the metro south as well as up-market families with business and professional interests in Makati and places farther south. For property previews of Georgia Club, call 842-1251 and 850-2868, or visit www.brittany-georgia-club.com.ph on the web.

A multidimensional urban dev't that is uniquely Brittany

LAND, IT IS OFTEN SAID, IS THE ONLY thing that will remain in the end. It is impossible not to have respect for the power it wields. It brings forth life, gently coaxing it out of the seeds and nurturing it to grow. It provides us with food to eat and keeps our homes stable.

Maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp. pays tribute to the land with a development that understands and respects its life-giving qualities. Set to be the largest urban development of Brittany Corp., Brittany Bay began as a seed of an idea that was planted, allowed to take root and nourished to grow. Today, it spans over 60 hectares of prime property on the South Luzon Expressway and is envisioned to be the next world-class destination with residential, commercial, business and institutional enclaves.

Multidimensional urban dev't

"Brittany Bay is a multidimensional urban development that celebrates life and living in such a grand scale. Located strategically midway between the airport and the Makati Central and Ortigas business districts, it is destined to be a major hub where a wide range of activities—from commercial to cultural—are being hosted. The idea is to create a space that is teeming with life but not becoming an urban jungle—a true oasis where the various activities of living can be celebrated with every sunrise," said Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano.

Brittany Bay is a joint-venture project between Brittany Corp. and the Marfori-Posadas family. Doña Estela Marfori Posadas of the illustrious and landed Marfori-Posadas family began what would be a legacy of excellence in developing residential communities. Doña Estela initiated the development of Posadas Village in 1969 along with other residential communities in their expansive land in Sucat. Today, in partnership with real estate maverick Brittany Corp., the Marfori-Posadas clan continues the legacy with the development of The Marfori at Brittany Bay.

Brittany Bay is a breathtaking sight to behold. Inspired by the San Francisco Bay Area lifestyle, it encourages mixed use of space but in a well-configured manner to create a relaxed ambience that stimulates creativity and progressive thinking. Furthermore, it offers an unobstructed view of the Laguna de Bay with the architecture tailor-made to take full advantage of this spectacular sight. The first phase involves areas being developed mostly for highly secured and private residential use.

A city in the making

And just as the land nurtures many seeds to grow into great trees, Brittany Bay is being cultivated to grow into a community. It is expected to grow into something greater. Brittany Bay is, in fact, a city in the making.

But the first phase covers only less than half of the property. The rest will be utilized to create a haven where all the modern conveniences are merely at an arm's reach. Foremost is a central business district that would house offices and other places of work—eliminating the need for a long commute elsewhere. A transport park to service the South Railway Station will ensure accessibility and speed of travel when one has to leave the area.

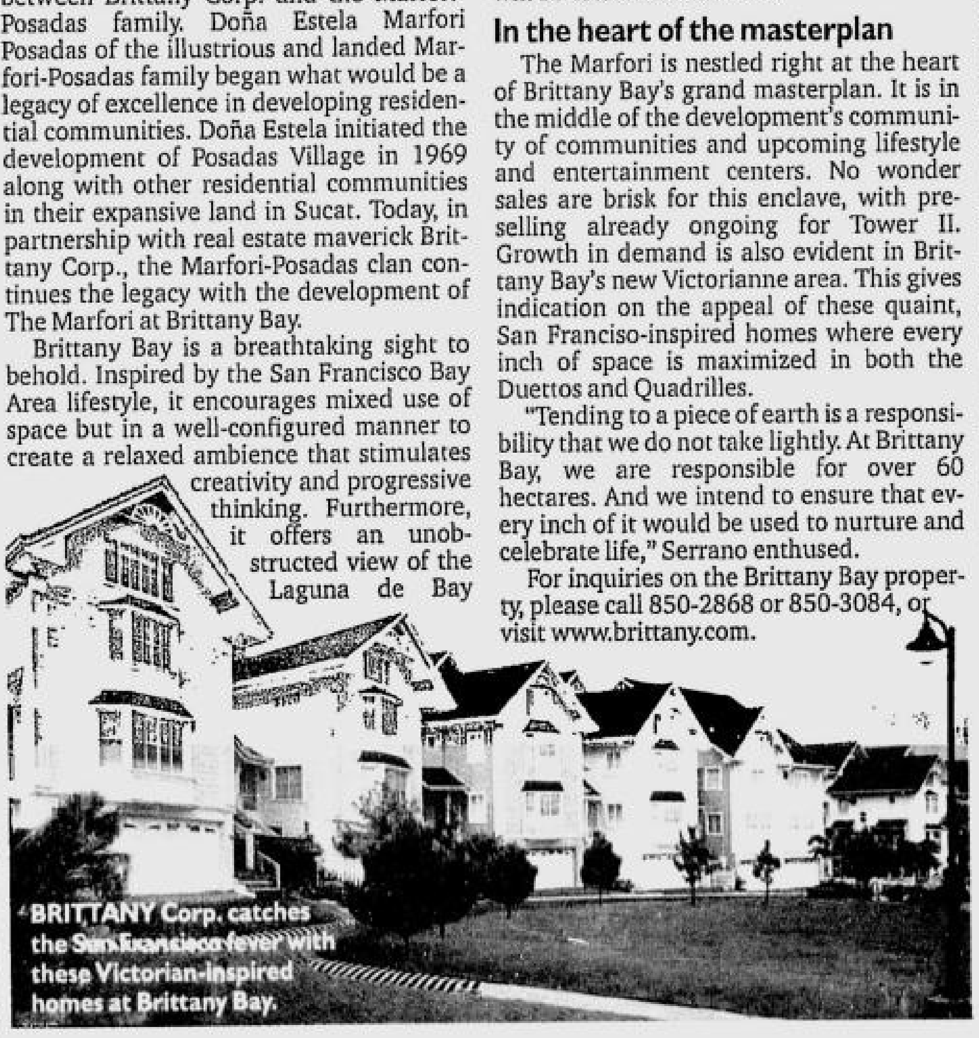
At the heart of this development is a lifestyle hub that will offer A-list boutiques and shops along with cozy restaurants to cater to the leisurely pursuits. A world-class, full-service boutique hotel is in the works as well. Situated at the highest point of the property, it will provide a unique vantage point of the entire development most especially the central park. It will also be linked to the country club and retail shops. And to nourish the mind and the soul, schools, cultural hubs and museums will be established as well.

In the heart of the masterplan

The Marfori is nestled right at the heart of Brittany Bay's grand masterplan. It is in the middle of the development's community of communities and upcoming lifestyle and entertainment centers. No wonder sales are brisk for this enclave, with preselling already ongoing for Tower II. Growth in demand is also evident in Brittany Bay's new Victorianne area. This gives indication on the appeal of these quaint, San Francisco-inspired homes where every inch of space is maximized in both the Duettos and Quadrilles.

"Tending to a piece of earth is a responsibility that we do not take lightly. At Brittany Bay, we are responsible for over 60 hectares. And we intend to ensure that every inch of it would be used to nurture and celebrate life," Serrano enthused.

For inquiries on the Brittany Bay property, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.



BRITTANY Corp. catches the San Francisco fever with these Victorian-inspired homes at Brittany Bay.

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Upon reaching C5 make a left to BCDA straight to Taguig Diversion Road. **From SLEX**: Take C5 and go st
From Ortigas: Take C5 and go straight ahead passing by Ma

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ıncisco. Camella Pacific Residences is a masterplanned ommercial area patterned after San Francisco's famous is conveniently located along C5 (Taguig, near Makati): minutes from Makati • 15 minutes from Ortigas Center

547 or log on to www.camella.com.ph

ıght to Lawton Avenue then another at Bayani Road.
aight ahead to BCDA then to Taguig Diversion Road.
ket! Market! to BCDA then to Taguig Diversion Road.

pacific
RESIDENCES

A joint venture of Camella Prestige and El Patu Property Holdings Corp.

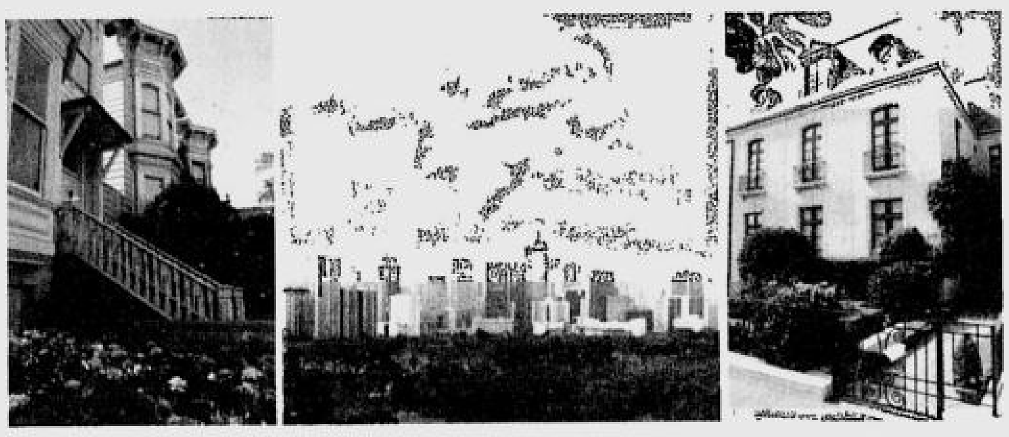
Camella, pioneering.

The first to offer value-for-money homes in master planned communities in the country, Camella Homes & Communities, "Paborito ng Pamilyang Pinoy", has always been fully committed to fulfill its vision of providing quality homes, well-planned communities, and home investment opportunities to millions of Pinoy families and Filipino workers overseas.

This is what Camella has been doing for the last 30 years . . . Camella has remained true to its vision.

Camella, evolving.

Camella continuously builds on its promise -- to build homes you've been wishing for. Not only are Camella's communities getting bigger and better, every master plan, every home design has to go through a rigorous development phase. Every unique feature and amenity must satisfy the homebuyer's distinct preference for a more superior yet unpretentious way of life. Every home has to provide security, privacy, comfort, and convenience at every level, with the assurance of increased investment value over the long term.



Today, a major milestone adds to Camella's distinguished track record with the formation of Camella Prestige. With its focus on intricately designed residences, premium location, added diversity of home choices, and top-of-the-line quality materials, Camella Prestige upholds the four cornerstones of a true, prestige residential community.

Camella
Prestige
Homes & Communities

Camella Prestige presents the most luxurious options in real estate across the Philippines — from high-rise condominiums and exquisitely designed town homes, to grand, beautiful homes in lush landscaped settings.

For its initial offering, Camella Prestige launches a one-of-its-kind development: **Pacific Residences**, one of the best property locations you can ever hope to find in the city.

pacific
RESIDENCES

Pacific Residences is in the heart of Manila's most prestigious urban setting, just right in Taguig, nestled within a 5-kilometer radius of Makati, just off the C-5 artery.

The plush Fort Bonifacio is your next door neighbor, with Market! Market! a mere 5-minute drive away. Head through to McKinley and you'd be along Ayala Avenue within 10 minutes. NAIA, to the south, is 15 minutes away, while Ortigas Center is a short 10-minute eastbound drive through C-5. Head north towards Libis and reach Quezon City in 20 minutes.

Taking city life to a higher level

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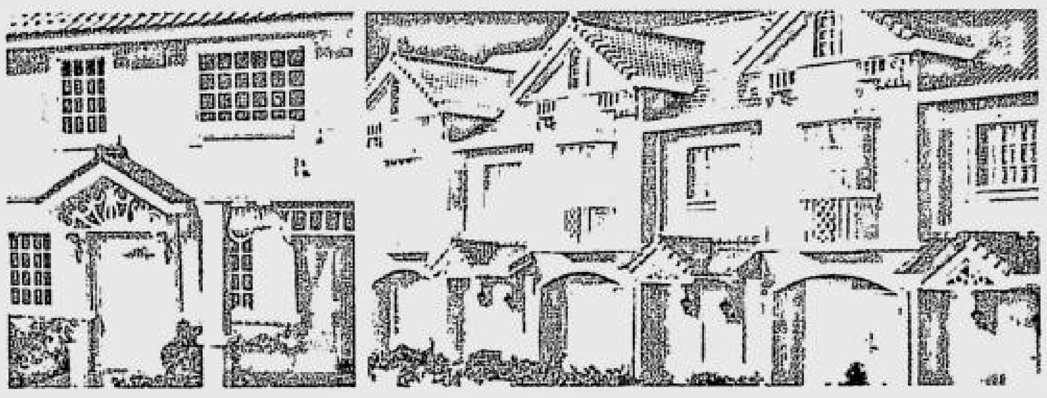

Enjoying life's achievements

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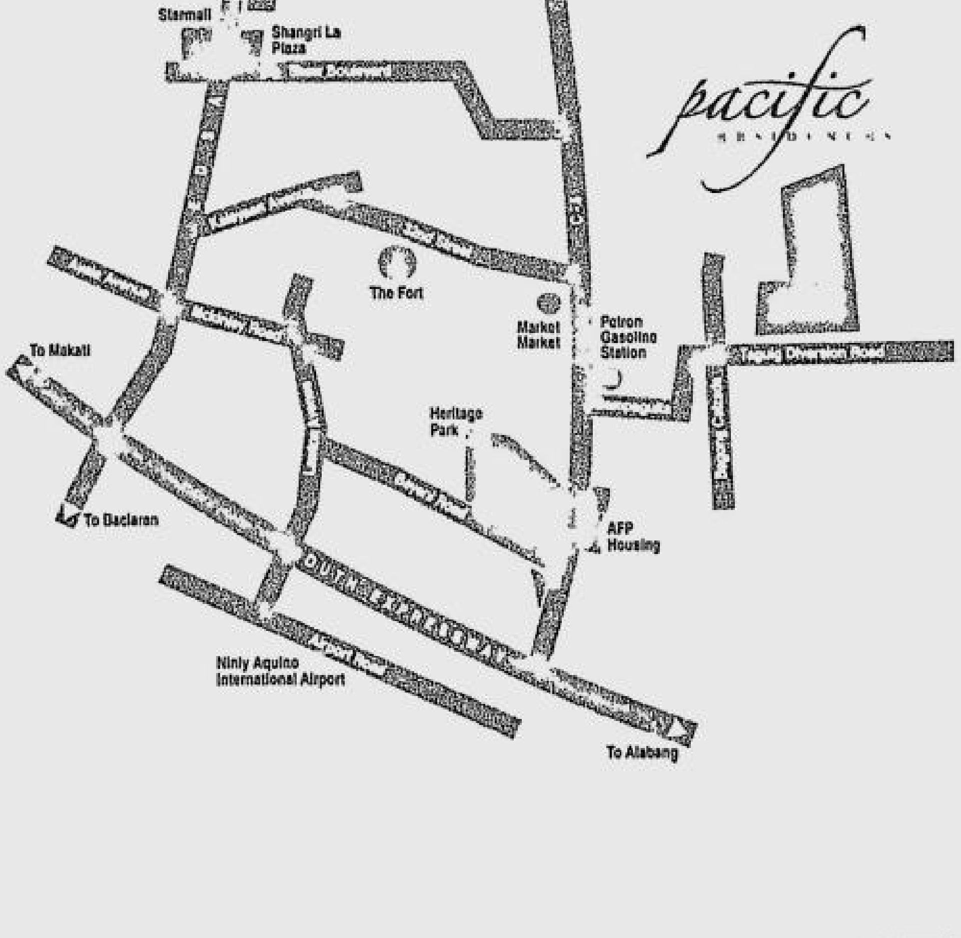

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A joint venture of Camella Prestige and El Patu Property Holdings Corp.

Super!Countdown

17

Super

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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

Race-ists

Dado Peña and Tyson Sy live on the fast lane page C2

Anton San Diego's tips on tapping into the Tatler Ball page C4

Assumptionistas unite! and 'Wake Up Your Seatmate!' page D1

Jun and Lee de Leon use their Sony Ericsson k800i to 'trace the wind' page C3

Photography: STEVE TIRONA
Graphic Design: CLANG SISON
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Grooming: JOHN PAGADUAN of Shu Uemura; Cover Stars: DADO PENA and TYSON SY using ACER FERRARI 4000

Let's race our Ferraris anytime

Tim Yap

THESE DAYS, SPEED and style is everything. If you snooze, you lose. Hard and harsh it may seem, today's click and point Super! generation's mantras rely heavily on solitary enhancement machines that ironically, make them more in touch with the world.

Call it a home study curriculum, these mobile computers have taken over, making the whole world your campus, workplace and play place. Yes, a mobile phone can try to do everything, but there's nothing like a big screen and lots of memory—because in most cases, size (and the other "s" words that go with it) still super matter.

Sleek, sexy and sophisticated, one sight of the Acer Ferrari 4000 laptop got my testosterone levels up. I slid my fingers on the shiny, hard cover and I got... excited.

Red hot Ferrari

I've driven an actual red hot Ferrari before, with a red hot babe named **Bubbles Paraiso** for a TV commercial shoot once, on a hot summer day at The Fort. But not all guys are as lucky as me.

Road-testing the Acer Ferrari laptop gave me a higher high because a car might take you places, but it can't take you around the world and back. On my first night in bed with my AF, I popped in a DVD of **Woody Allen**'s "Matchpoint," where I had an orgy with **Scarlett Johanssen** and **Jonathan Rhys-Myers**—that's how far it took me.

The next night, I went online to check out **Hedi Slimane**'s latest collection for Dior Homme. Vr-room—the speed on which I browsed through his collection was faster than watching models breeze through the runways. Acer Ferrari 4000 plus PLDT MyDSL connection equals speed freak high.

And when I tried catching up on my multitudes of e-mails, checking Embassy's VIP database, writing a column and surfing about limited edition **Marc Eckô** sneaks all at the same time, the Acer Ferrari 4000 handled all the action with ease. Oh yes, this sturdy tool allows for speedy multitasking, perfect for this 'slash-everything' generation.

> **Road-testing the Acer Ferrari 4000 gave me a higher high because a car might take you places, but it can't take you around the world and back**

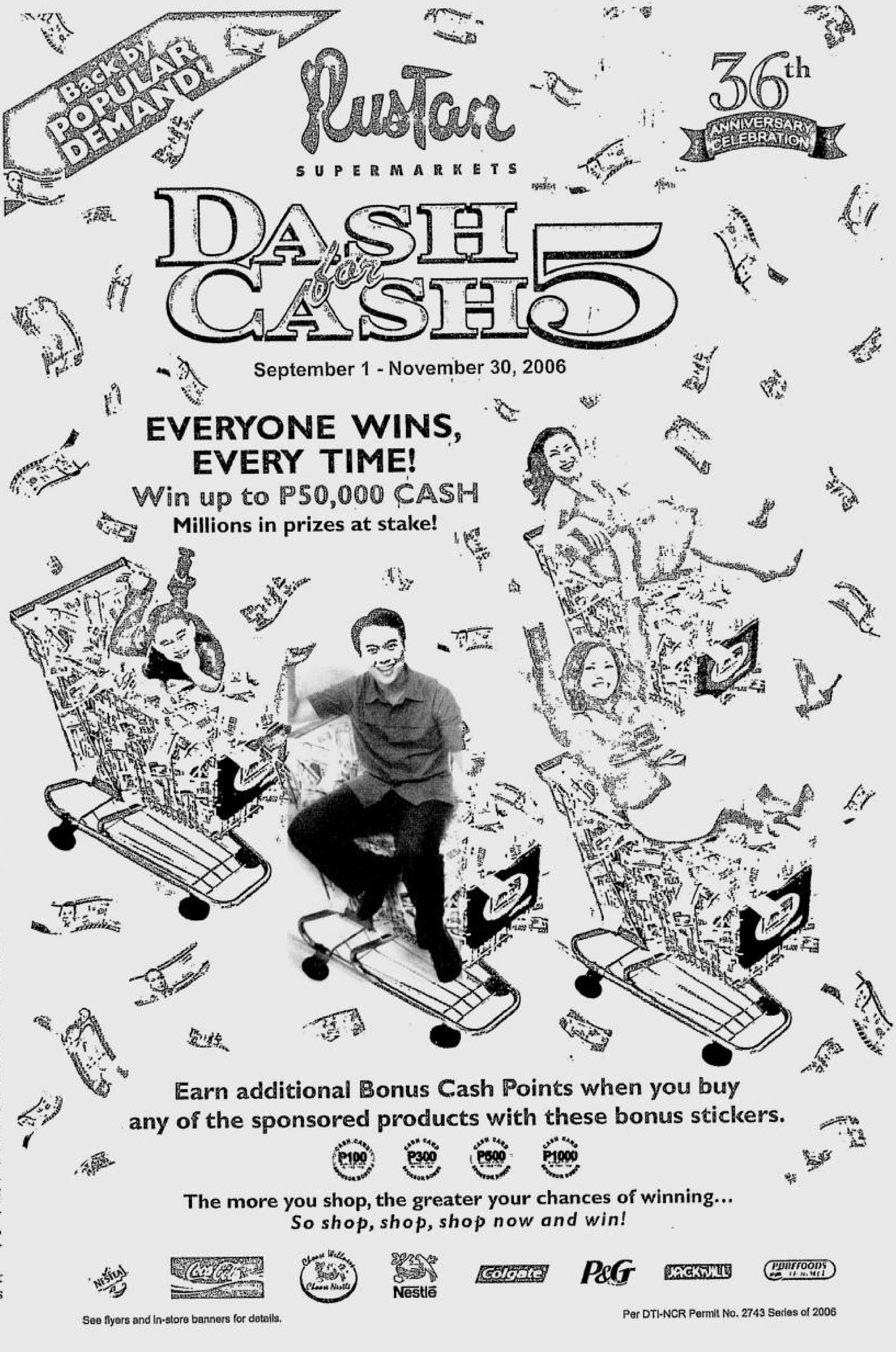
On this issue's cover is a masked duo whose lives thrive on acceleration. The Acer Ferrari 4000 shares the spotlight with A-list racers and "I Am Super!" 2006 awardees **Dado Peña** and **Tyson Sy**. And it's not just the spotlight that they have in common. The boys and this bootable baby are about precision, perfection and performance.

A-list orgasm

And like Dado and Tyson, this generation's speed reps, the Acer Ferrari 4000 is not all looks. Its rundown of super specs can get any technogeek trembling with orgasmic anticipation.

The laptop is equipped with AMD Turion 64ML-40 (2.2GHz, 1MB L2 Cache, 400MHz FSB), 1GB DDR RAM, a 120-GB Hard Disk Drive, a 15.4" WSXGA+ 185-nit color widescreen TFT LCD, ATI Radeon X700 128MB Full Video Memory, 5-in-1 Card Reader, Acer GridVista Technology, Acer Signal Up Technology, Integrated Wireless LAN (802.11b/g), Slot Load 8x Super-Multi DVD Double Layer Drive, Integrated Bluetooth and a Wireless Bluetooth Optical Mouse.

Whew! I'm breaking a sweat just enumerating it. Now tell me that's not sexy. The gadget, not me.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2743 Series of 2006

Ready, set, yo!

Tyson Sy and Dado Pena are two young guys who are achieving huge things and setting the standard for their generation the new Manila

By [illegible]

Photography by [illegible]
Assisted by VERNON PEREZ
Graphic Design [illegible]
Sittings Editor [illegible]
Grooming [illegible]
[illegible]
Special Thanks to [illegible]

WHILE WE LIVE IN A sunny, laidback country, many Filipinos long for the fast life. And we [illegible] won't go into the Filipino diaspora, the need for speed has given birth to numerous racing circuits around the country. We have off-road, drag, drifting and rally racing here. Less hard core, but equally extreme, are the go-kart [illegible] scene in the country, which is common folk hear most about.

[illegible]

Ready, set, yo!

Tyson Sy and Dado Pena are two young guys who are achievin huge things and setting the standard for their generation the new Manila

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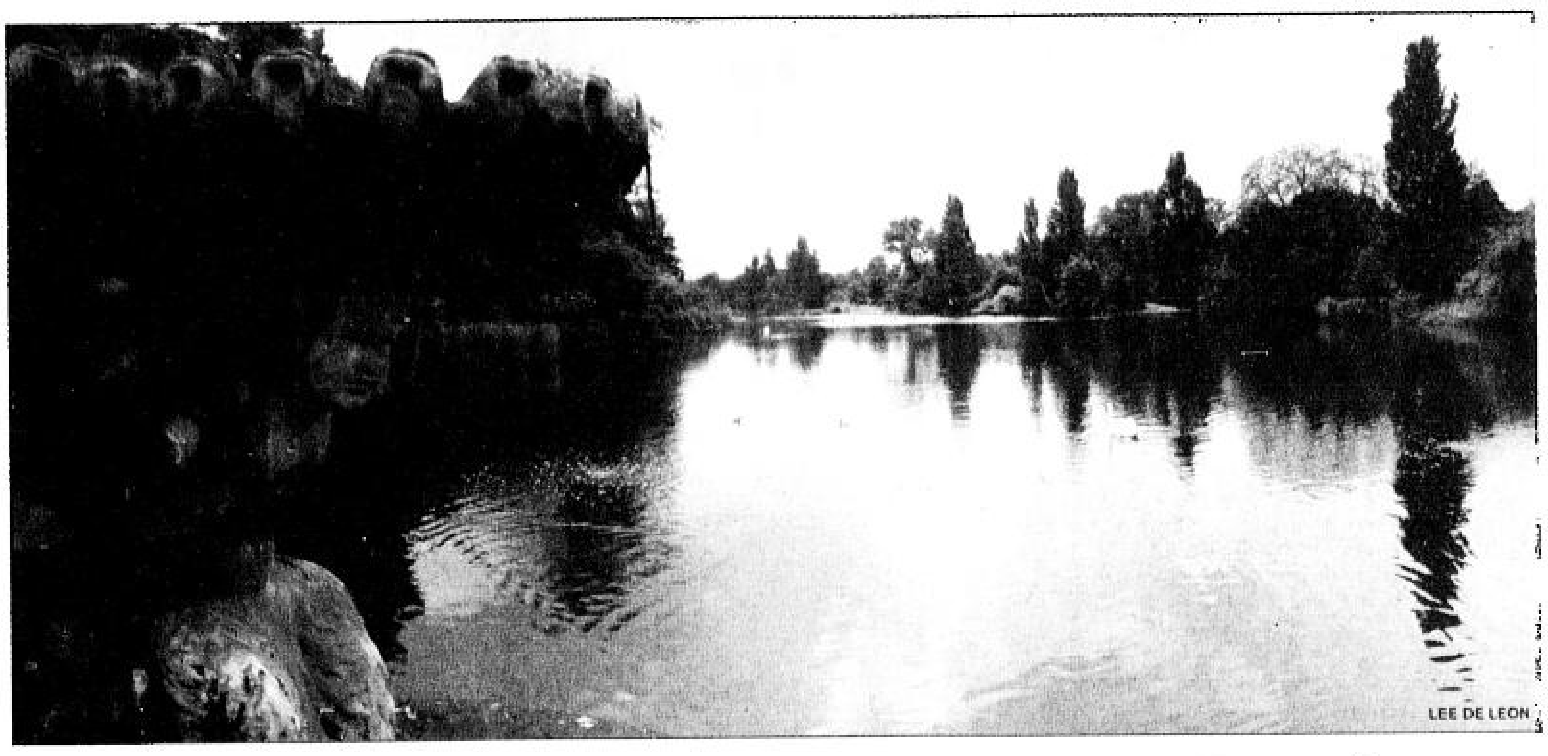
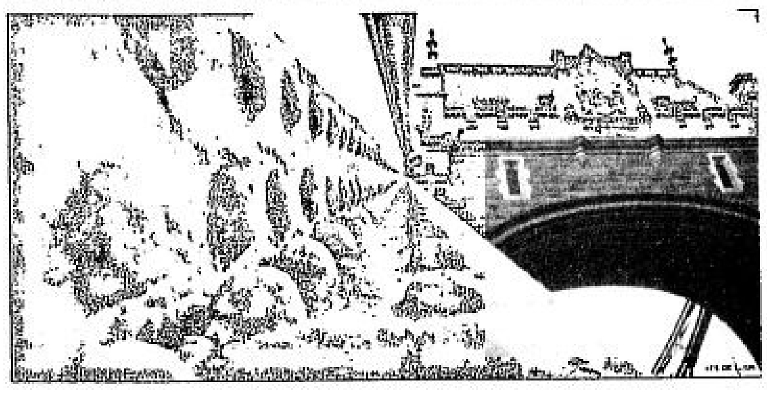
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME


LEE DE LEON


LEE DE LEON

Flip through this new phone book

THE TELEPHONE, A DEVICE THAT transmits and receives sounds across distances, through its portable version, has evolved a long way and is fast becoming a total communications tool.

This portable version, of course, refers to the cellular phone. First introduced in the 1980s, it has now gone well beyond the standard call function, even allowing users to listen to music, take pictures or send and receive photographs.

Being a leader in the field of mobile communications, Sony Ericsson understands the importance of keeping in touch not just with words but with pictures. And its latest model, the K800i Cyber-shot phone, with a 3.2 megapixel camera, does that with its crisp and vivid images.

As an ultimate tribute to the K800i, Sony Ericsson embarked on a project—a first of its kind—with master photographer Jun de Leon and his son Lee.

The project took them on an adventuresome trip which they describe as 'a journey with no destination, no exit,' simply because there were no maps to guide them nor was there a time frame to restrict their creative moods.

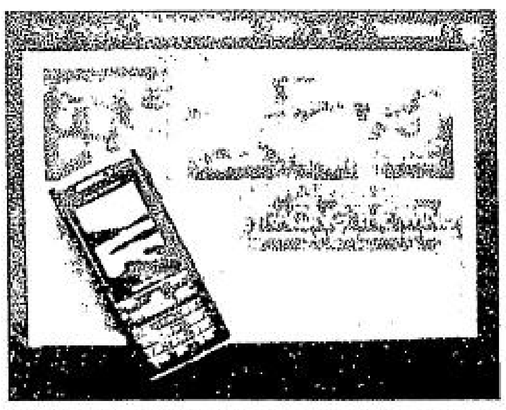
London, Dubai, Tokyo, Los Angeles, and even places in the Philippines ... the original 100-page book has become a 107-pager and has been dubbed Tracing the Wind. Jun de Leon explains, "It was hard to edit, so we still put the others in."

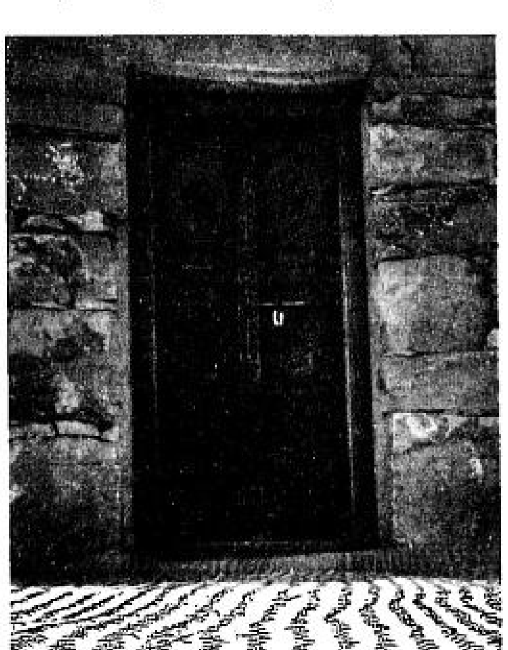
According to Lee, "The pictures are sharp; you don't need to adjust them." Jun adds, "We didn't have expectations in the beginning. It was a challenge; it had never been done before. The camera performed well, you can see from the results."

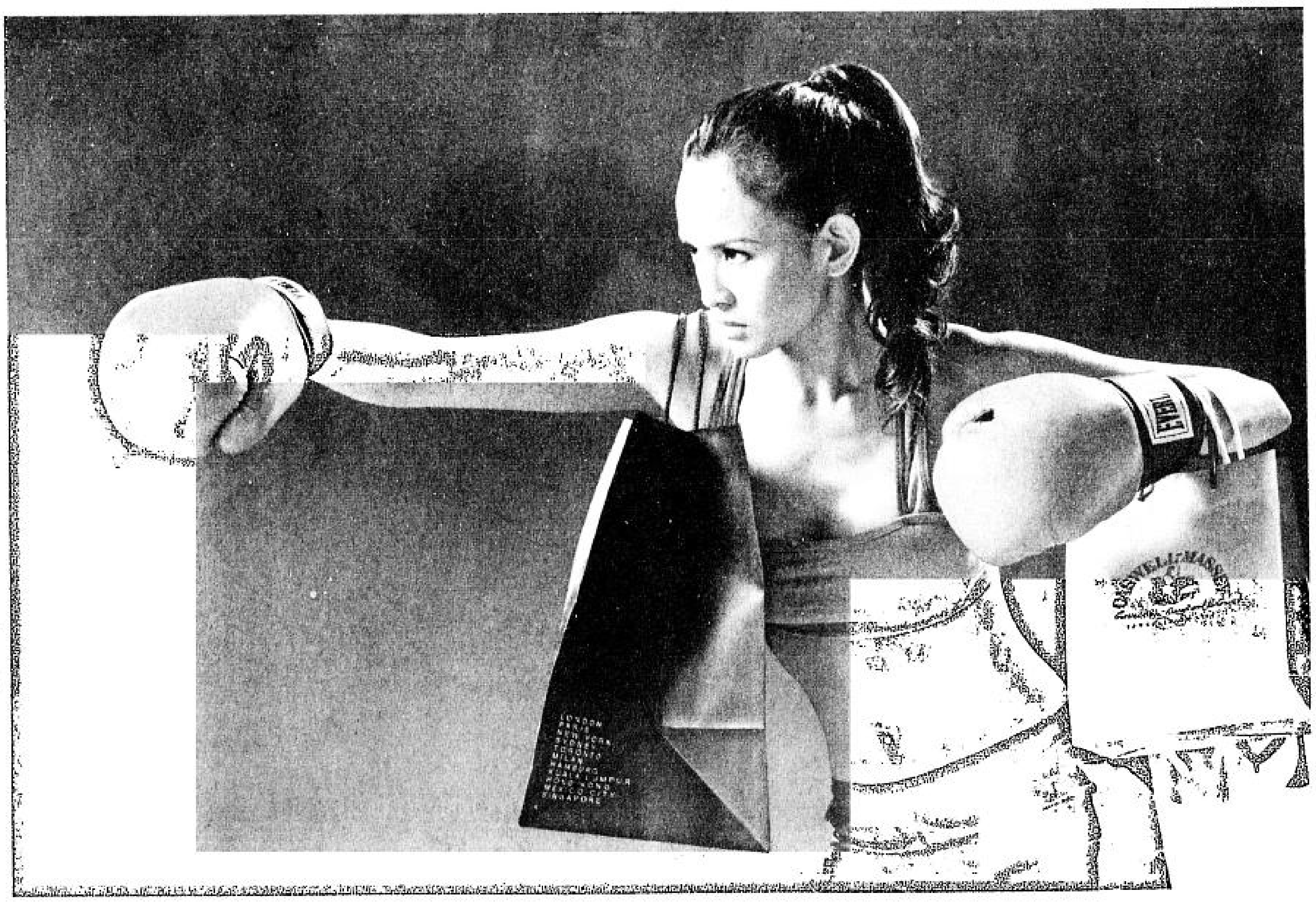
In this age where a mobile culture has emerged, the phone has become a key social tool for communication. With Sony Ericsson's K800i, you can let pictures speak a thousand words. Just like what Jun and Lee de Leon did with Tracing the Wind.

Tracing the Wind, the first-ever photography book featuring images taken exclusively with a mobile phone, the Sony Ericsson K800i Cyber-shot phone, was launched on Oct. 12 together with an exhibit of selected photographs at the 2nd Floor, Main Mall, SM Mall of Asia. The exhibit will run until Oct. 22.

Customers who purchase the Sony Ericsson K800i Cyber-shot phone from any Sony Ericsson Concept Shop are entitled to a free limited edition of Tracing the Wind. The offer is good until Nov. 4 only.


CAPTURING "a journey with no destination" with your Sony Ericsson K800i phone.


THE PICTURES are sharp; you don't need to adjust them.



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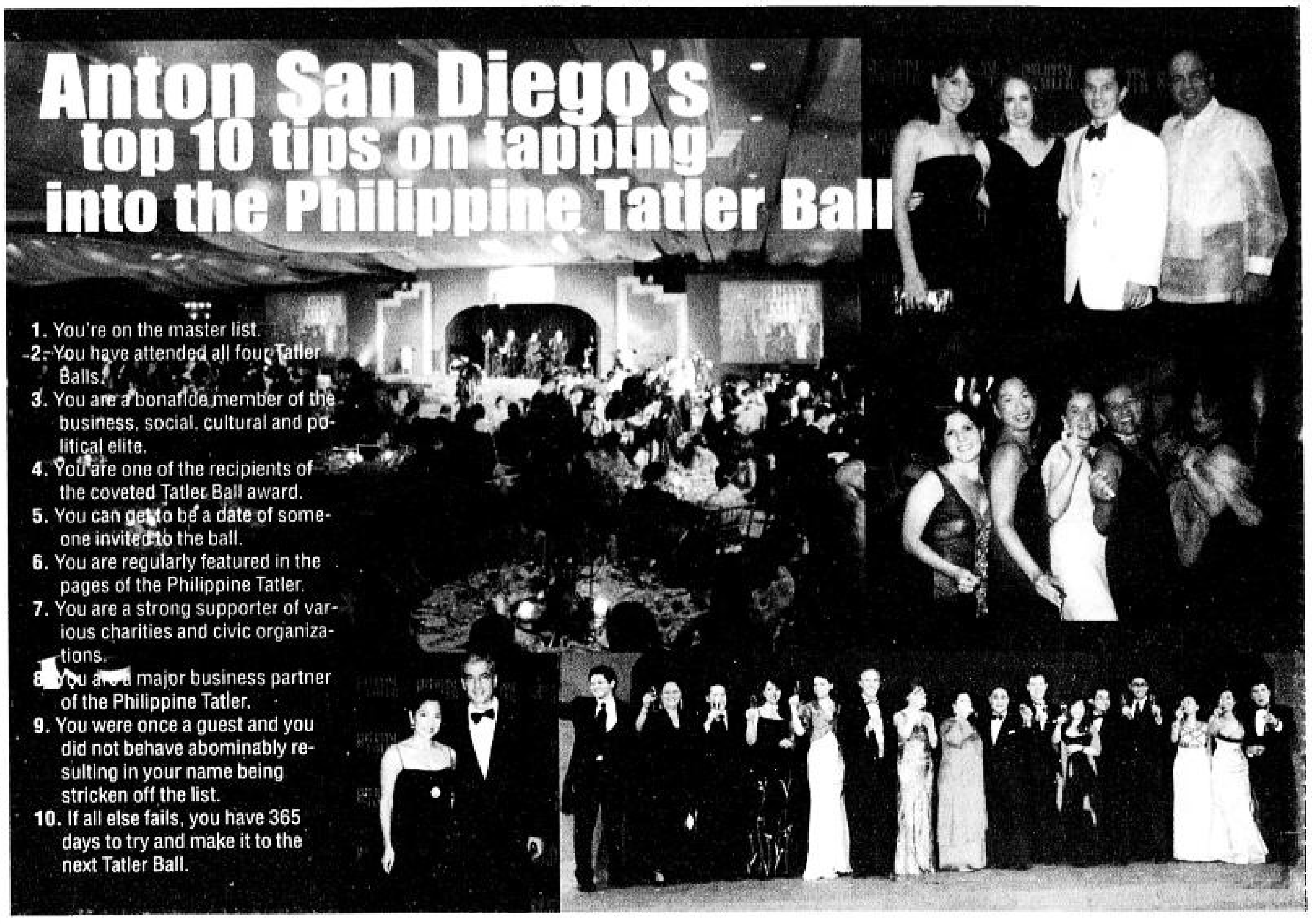
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2758, Series of 2006

Anton San Diego's top 10 tips on tapping into the Philippine Tatler Ball

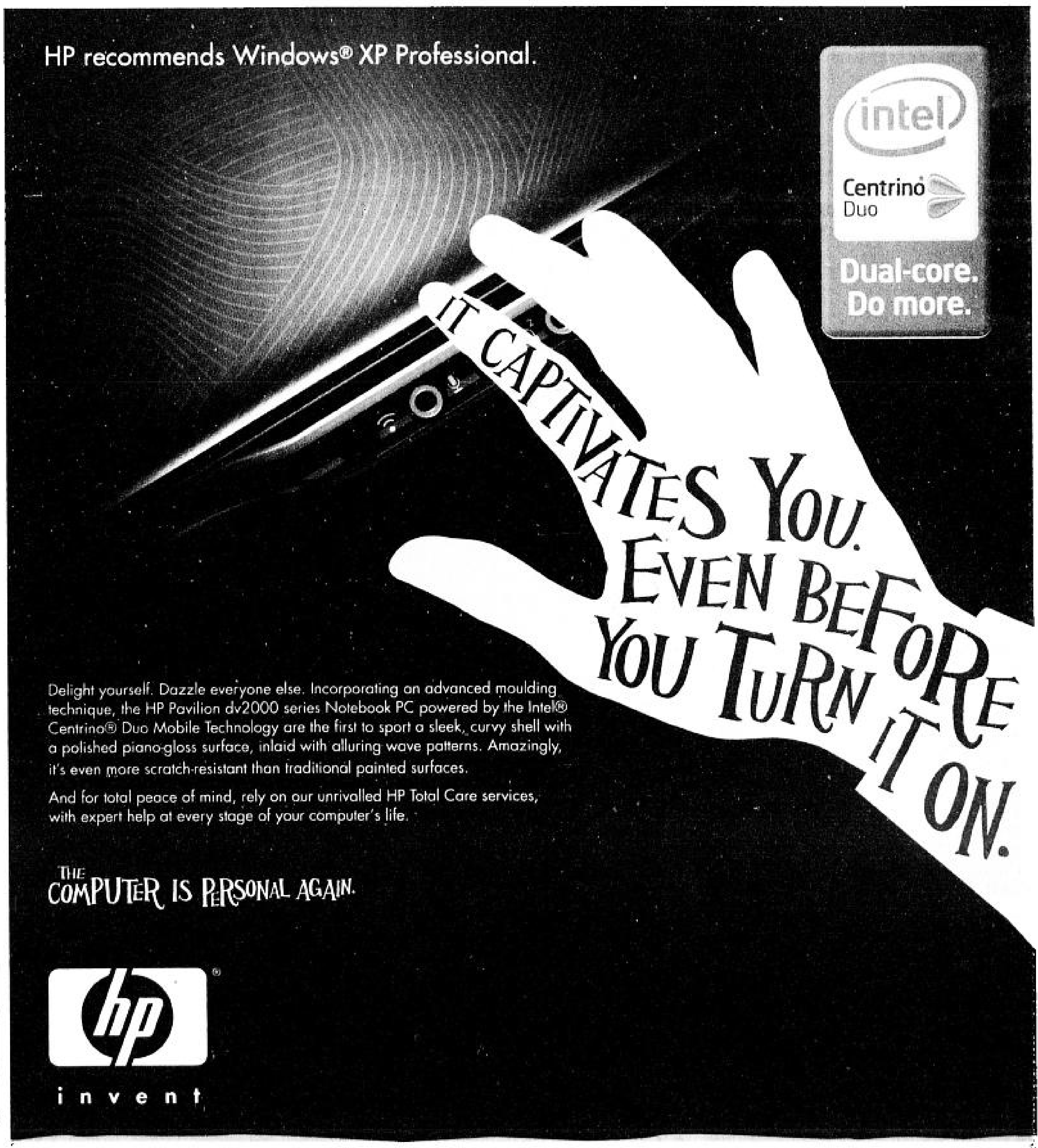


1. You're on the master list.
2. You have attended all four Tatler Balls.
3. You are a bonafide member of the business, social, cultural and political elite.
4. You are one of the recipients of the coveted Tatler Ball award.
5. You can get to be a date of someone invited to the ball.
6. You are regularly featured in the pages of the Philippine Tatler.
7. You are a strong supporter of various charities and civic organizations.
8. You are a major business partner of the Philippine Tatler.
9. You were once a guest and you did not behave abominably resulting in your name being stricken off the list.
10. If all else fails, you have 365 days to try and make it to the next Tatler Ball.

Tim Yap's Tatler Ball top 10 (toot toot)

1. I cannot wait to see Tessa Prieto-Valdes walk around the ballroom in her Rajo Laurel helium-inflated ballgown. She might just fly away this time.
2. It is interesting for me to observe how people try to check on each other's tables to see who's seated with who. Just have fun, guys and dolls.
3. Today, all top hair and makeup artists are fully booked. Luckily, (or hopefully) and since we are dealing with the top tier, no one will look alike.
4. If you still can't decide on what to wear (between your designer black gown or your other designer black gown), go for color, vivacity, frivolity! Go decked out. Now's your chance.
5. Speaking of which, now is the right time to play with the family jewels (not your husband's—or maybe later tonight, after the ball). So, bling it on!
6. I've been to all four balls, and I'm excited to see how this fifth one will match in terms of the fun aspect. Heard a good retro DJ was hired for the party set. Freeflowing Moet is always a plus.
7. And there's always the after-ball party. Tonight, I'm hosting it at Embassy Cuisine—but it's a secret. Ssshhh... I still remember Sam Eduque, so regal in her yellow Inno Sotto traipsing around the club. Love her!
8. At the end of the night, designers are all gonna make a head count of who-wore-what—trivial and superficial, but nonetheless exciting.
9. The most important part is, there's no such thing as a free meal. So please donate to the Philippine Tatler's chosen beneficiary, Operation Smile.
10. Manila needs these exciting events to keep the ball rolling. So let's raise our glasses and not our eyebrows to the peeps who believe that this nation is rich—in all senses of the word.

HP recommends Windows® XP Professional.



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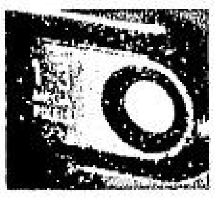

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Girl jam

Despite the freshman-friendly name, the four girls in Wake Up Your Seatmate can definitely, awesomely, totally rock

By Gino de la Paz
Photo by Noel Nieva

THERE ARE TWO THINGS that Wake Up Your Seatmate are not. First, despite the freshman-friendly name, the four girls in this band can awesomely rock, so axe any notion that they'll belt out anything from "High School Musical" anytime soon. Second, even if they're mostly likely still cramming for midterms, cruising around campus, or taking catnaps in class (see freshman-friendly name), they're, like, wise beyond their combined age of... 78. Really.

What they are is one of the most buzzed-about bands in the nocturnal music circuit, with a single, "Charm Me," hitting numero uno in NU107's Stairway To Seven countdown and a citation by FHM as one of the 30 best local independent bands of today/the foreseeable future. Yup, Wake Up Your Seatmate is jam-oriented enough to please indie sad-sacks, perky preppies, force-fed headbangers, slightly spaced out small children-whoever.

Plaid pride

Starting out at the plaid powerhouse known as Assumption High School in San Lorenzo Village, Makati, drummer Atchoo Ilagan (19), lead guitarist Celine Pineda (21), vocalist/rhythm guitarist Mia Tengco (20), and bassist Patty Peralta (18) got together, learned their musical ABC's, and conquered their own backyard: the annual Assumption fair. What happened next was straight out of, well, a Disney movie.

Right after school, the girls literally stormed Gweilos in Makati and asked the management to give them a weeknight gig in exchange for a full house. The rationale behind the guerrilla approach? "We realized that if we wanted a gig, we had to go get one and not wait around for it to find us," says Mia. And according to Atchoo, they only wanted to have fun and play for their friends. A successful flashmobbing or two later, Wake Up Your Seatmate found themselves navigating a handful of bars around the city, including 6Underground, Mag:net Café, and Café Saguijo.

School of rock

With a passion for music, writing anthems came naturally. As Celine puts it, "We write as a band and put together ideas. It's mostly a collaborative effort." Mia makes most of the melodies and Atchoo is in charge of the musical arrangement.

From the backmasked opening riffs of "Baryo" to the playful beach blanket boogie of "Bongo Beats," certain flourishes in the band's 12-track debut CD are tributes to the coeds' influences: Barbie Almalbis, Alanis Morissette, Eraserheads, Smashing Pumpkins, Janis Joplin, and even Black Sabbath. And depending on how extensive your music vocabulary is, it's also possible to detect a little Elastica and even The Donnas somewhere in the mix. (Especially in "The Kawawa Song," which, at 49 seconds, is probably the most hyper homage to the boy-next-classroom.)

But Wake Up Your Seatmate makes all those distinct sounds their own, putting tracks together depending on their mood. "We usually compose our songs in my house in one afternoon," shares Atchoo. "If we're in a writing mood, we can finish two songs that afternoon. If not, then we move our composing to the next practice session." Celine also noticed that she scribbles down things constantly. "Then weeks or months after, I apply them to the melodies I make, except for "Tiger Lili" which took a whole day of just sitting on my bed and playing the guitar."

Gigs to play, places to be

With a get-up-and-go kind of sparkle that could just turn them into a crossover success story, it's a bit surprising that the band is still prone to peeing their pants on stage. Well, sorta. "Stage fright is still an issue for me. Drinking energy drinks or a good trip to the bathroom helps ease nerves but it never really goes away!" Mia goes. Atchoo has her own ritual, walking around outside the bar to breathe, while Pat syncs her guitar since her greatest fear is to go out of tune mid-set.

But with the support of a growing fan base, momentum is on their side. In fact, fans and would-be stalkers can rejoice any second now as the band is accessible online. "We have a Yahoo! group, wakeupyourseatmate@yahoogroups.com, and a Friendster account named 'wake up.'" Got that? Good. Now get ready for the raddest beats this side of college.

Their debut CD, "Wake Up Your Seatmate," is distributed by EMI Philippines. For gig schedules, please contact Mario de Castro at 0917-8823345.

SUPER! SELECTIONS

A time to heel!...

What do women want? New shoes of course! HSBC RED MasterCard calls on all women to walk their way with new heels

By Tals Diaz

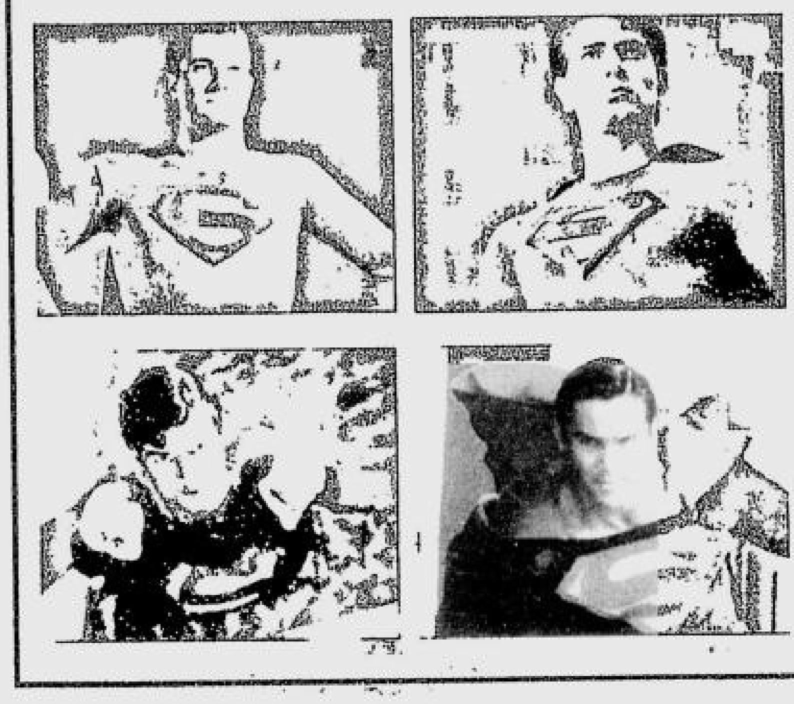
CALLING ALL WOMEN WHO love shoes... which means 99 percent of the female population! Here's some great news—HSBC's RED MasterCard, the country's first and leading credit card for women, has now given women the chance to turn their footwear fantasies into reality with their latest promo, "Love Shoes?" in a tie-up with Janylin stores. Janylin has long been a favorite shoe sanctuary for many Filipinas, and is in fact the leading retailer for fashionable footwear in the Philippines.

If you sign up and get approved for your Red MasterCard, you get a free pair of Janylin shoes worth up to P1,600. Your new shoes can be claimed at participating Janylin branches. The new cardholder must activate her card and spend at least P500 in any establishment in order to redeem her free pair/s of Janylin shoes. You just need to present the credit card charge slip which shows the minimum P500 purchase along with the shoe voucher sent by HSBC to any of the participating Janylin stores.

Even existing RED MasterCard holders can also take part in this fantastic promo. For every approved primary RED MasterCard applicant they refer, they receive a voucher which can be redeemed for at least one pair of Janylin shoes worth up to P1,600.

RED MasterCard holders can enjoy a 20 percent discount on any merchandise purchase at Janylin stores when they use their RED MasterCard.

Promo ends on Oct. 31, 2006, while claiming of Janylin shoes is accepted until Jan. 31, 2007. For more info, call (02) 878-7878 or visit www.hsbc.com.ph.



A time to steel

FROM COSMIC BOOKS AND CARtoons to TV shows and movies, the Man of Steel has never failed to bring action and excitement to audiences all over the world. Trace Superman's wild journey with The Look, Up in the Sky The Amazing Story of Superman DVD, which includes awesome never-seen-before footage of Superman Returns. Get an extra dose of adventure with Superman's untold stories—the kind you'll expect from the mightiest of all heroes.

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Superfriends goes Mega-lomaniac

CARLA SIBAL,
editor in chief,
Mega Magazine

Text and photos by David Milan using Kodak V610

MEGA RECENTLY HAD their 7th Young Designer's Competition with the theme "The Shape of the New Future." Six young designers vied for the title and the one-year scholarship to Mod'Art France. Everyone showcased ingenuity and fashion forward details in their creations. The 7th Mega Young Designer's Competition was directed by the super creative Robby Carmona and hosted by Super!'s very own Tim Yap. Mega, continuously promoting the talent of new designers, is crossing their fingers for the future of Pinoy Fashion to stay as vibrant as ever.

Patrick Ty

What's so mega about you: Mega prides itself as a patron of Philippine fashion by creating ventures for local designers to showcase their work and make things happen for them. I live for these designers. Half of my closet is by Joey Samson

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: Striped bomber jacket and white napoleonic shirt by Joey Samson

The new me is: Less stressed, so certain and much happier

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Bolder

Robby Carmona

What's so mega about you: I'm a Mega director and soon to be a mega DJ

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: My assymetric Joey Samson Jacket

The new me is: Doing things I've never done before

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: To be global. Pinoy rocks!

Helena Belmonte

What's so mega about you: I'm fun, friendly and fabulous.

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: Mich Dulce's tabloid colleсtiion. I like her style—dare to be different

The new me is: More responsible, less of a party girl and more fixated with fashion and health.

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Looking good. Every year the designers are becoming more creative and more flamboyant especially when it comes to showing Pinoy pride!

Mark Nicdao

What's so mega about you: My patience

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: My attitude

The new me is: A free spirit

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Not afraid to exchange

Karla Alindahao

What's so mega about you: I'm super mega myself

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: Puey Quinones panuelo and Ronaldo Arnaldo shorty shorts

The new me is: Evolving

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Undefined

GP Reyes

What's so mega about you: Let's just say, I'm popular with the ladies. Just kidding!

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: Avel Bacudio jacket, Viktor Jeans, a tailor shirt I made and my heart on my sleeve always

The new me is: The old me only newer

Malaya

What's so mega about you: My faith in God and my stubborn belief that common Filipino can be organized and that our government is never hopeless and studying and working abroad is not the only way to break into the global industry.

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: Everything especially my Pilipinas flag belt buckle.

The new me is: Always better

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: More aggressive on the global industry but more roots-oriented.

Mars Miranda

What's so mega about you: Nothing really

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: It's a kamisa chino layered long-sleeve

The new me is: Still relaxed

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: I hope it's better than ever

Anne Matot

What's so mega about you: I'm natural

The new me is: All about challenging myself

The shape of the new Pinoy future: Lies on taking big risks to gain success

Shahani Gania

What's so mega about you: I'm mega happy with the way things are going in my life

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: It's created by Ignacio Loyola. I've been a big fan since I was 18 and it's my first time to wear him.

The new me is: 30 pounds lighter and still trying to lose weight.

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Shaping up to a more positive direction. New talents are sprouting and I think it's up to the generation before them to help guide in molding what Pinoy future should be.

Vicky Tensuan

What's so mega about you: Being the beauty editor of Mega Magazine

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: Louis Claparols-designed dress

The new me is: Pinoy design all the way

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Mega Magazine. We turn 15 next year!

RJ Ledesma

What's so mega about you: Cojones

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: My Silk Cocoon barong

The new me is: Percolating

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Shaped like Play-doh

Kat Arambulo

What's so mega about you: I never conform to trends and I'm very unpredictable.

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: Culte Femme by Hindy Tantoco

The new me is: The drastic change of my hairstyle.

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Thinking outside the box by not only appreciating art but by creating their own

Corine Alegre

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: It's by one of the best designers of the country, Ivarluski Aseron

The new me is: Well, I'm more enthusiastic with each project I do

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Anything but boring and square

John Paras

What's so mega about you: Glam, fab and totally *faccion*

What's so Pinoy about what you're wearing: I designed it myself

The new me is: Curious, excited and more fun like it's always my first time!

The shape of the new Pinoy future is: Hopefully a better one with more appreciation for art, culture and anything Pinoy

Fashion you can sink your teeth into

KEN Waymack and Jessica Guevara

NIKKI and Monette Guevara, Dj Miles and Faith Amigo

"LOOK DELICIOUS" WAS ALL THAT WAS asked of the guests. The rest was up to two teams—Chocolate Clothing Company and Look Models Philippines—that collaborated to produce one appetite-satisfying night.

A finger-lickin' buffet, lip-smackin' cocktails and a chocolate fountain kicked off the evening. Appetites were more than satisfied and the senses were in for even more treats. Next on the menu? Eye candy!

It was a special night for Chocolate Clothing Company for three reasons—they were celebrating four magnificent years in the retail industry, it was the birthday of Chocolate Clothing managing director Ana [illegible] and they were launching their yummy 2006 Holiday Collection.

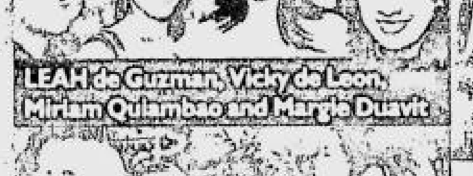
This yearly event has always been well attended but this year's celebration was even more packed. The Shangri-La Mall Atrium was full of beautiful people who were looking forward to the exciting celebration.

All eyes focused as the gorgeous Look models paraded, danced and charmed the audience with the delicious holiday collection from Chocolate Clothing.

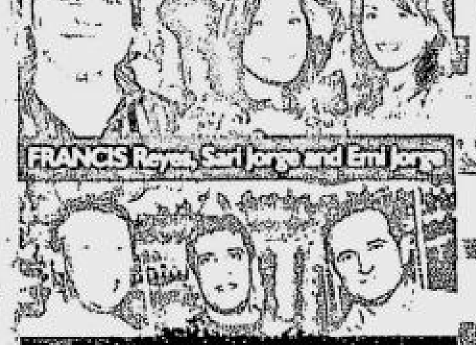
Ana, business partner Mike Advani and the Chocolate Clothing team were delighted at the support and showed guests their appreciation with early holiday treats—personalized gifts from Chocolate Clothing and goodie bags from Look Models Philippines.

RIZZA Inaje, Noel Escaler, May Munoz, Carminia Pavia, Maureen Disini, Jigs Mayuga, Trisha Chua, Pamela Gonzales, Venice Laurel and Sam Amigo-Laurel

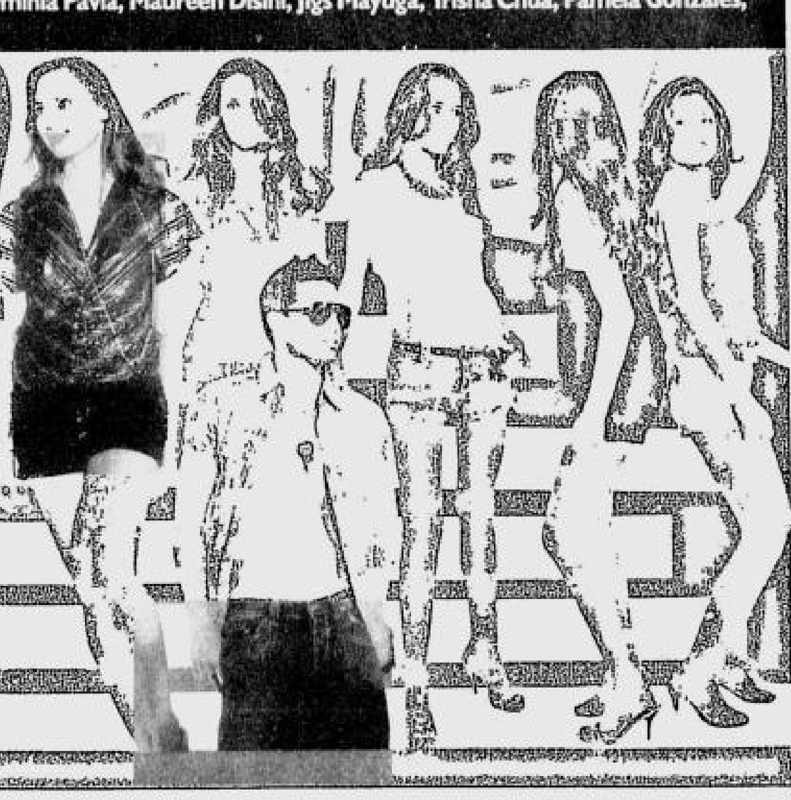
LEAH de Guzman, Vicky de Leon, Miriam Quiambao and Margie Duavit



FRANCIS Reyes, Sari Jorge and Emi Jorge

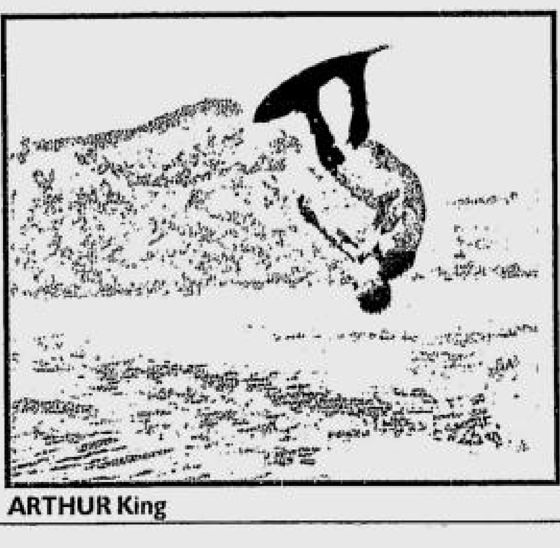


MIKE Advani, Patxi Elizalde and David Fisher



Surf scent-sations

PAOLO Soler



ARTHUR King

ALEX Santos

ISSEY MIYAKE'S FRESH NEW SCENT L'eau Bleue D'issey Eau was launched in an intimate party at Paseo Uno at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. The afternoon was highlighted by a special recognition of three men who have found exceptional passion in conquering the waters—award-winning wakeboarder Arthur King, professional diver Alex Santos and hot surfer guy Paolo Manuel Soler. Keep making waves, guys.

NBK turns 9!

EVEN AFTER ALMOST A DECADE IN the business, their deep-seated love for house music has never waned. For close to five hours of rip-roaring fun, party scene pioneer Natural Born Klubbers (NBK) celebrates their ninth anniversary tonight with their fantasmagoric monthly fiesta, "For the Love of House."

From 10 p.m. onwards, join DJ Manolet Dario and the NBK house heroes—Antz Santiago, Bombi Balquiedra, David Jacob, Jed Dario, Jon Naval, Marc Naval, Paolo Maralit, and Raji Mata—as they bring down the house at the Embassy Super Club with a heady dose of your favorite house tracks.

Sportswear giant Nike joins the fun in the VIP room with the "Nike Running Wagon." As a special treat, partygoers sporting the signature swoosh (read: Nike footwear or apparel) get in the club for free if they arrive before 11:30 p.m. For details, call 892-0689.

Carmen: Aida Gomez

Svelte women illuminated by spotlights, their chins lifted, their feet stomping to a self-circling whirl of body and fabric—these are the fiery flamencas of Spain! On Tuesday, ¡Fiesta! 2006 culminates with the arrival of flamenco star Aida Gomez, as she tackles an explosive interpretation "Carmen," one of opera's great masterpieces.

The epitome of the femme fatale, the eponymous character is a seductive gypsy woman from Andalucia. Gomez's riveting presence and superb artistry brings the fated gypsy to life, setting fire to the stage together with 19 other dancers from her award-winning troupe. Catch this immortal tale of passion and seduction on Oct. 17 (8 p.m.) at the CCP Main Theater. For tickets, call 891-9999.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Oct. 14, Saturday

Tickled Pink Bazaar at The Loft (Rockwell); Pedicab, Salindiwa, Chillitees, Radioactive Sago Project & Dicta License at Saguijo; Kjwan & Kapatid at 6Underground; Nina at Eastwood Central Plaza; Coffeebreak Island at 70s Bistro; Cynthia Alexander at Conspiracy; Wiseguys at Metro Bar; Regine Velasquez at Araneta Coliseum; DJs Paolo Maralit & Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Lounge-O-Rama w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Bringin' Back the Bounce at Mati; DJs Buddha & JD at Absinth; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; Bacardi Bling w/ DJ McCoy at Vida Malate ; House Groovin' at Mezze; DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Wham Bam at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Drag-on Saturdays at Bed; Behind Closed Doors at Shang Streetscape

Oct. 15, Sunday

Tickled Pink Bazaar at The Loft (Rockwell); Pelicula: Spanish Film Festival at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas; Dissection: Denis Lagdameo exhibit at Lumiere Gallery; No Borders CulTour Festival at Chateau 1771; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Café; Trumpet's Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4

Oct. 16, Monday

Itchyworms at Conspiracy; CanU DIGGIT? w/ DJs Red-I & Brandon Umali at Absinth; Gary Granada at 70s Bistro; Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

Oct. 17, Tuesday

Carmen: Aida Gomez at CCP Main Theater; Parokya ni Edgar & Kamikazee at Metro Bar; Bagetsafonik, Outerhope, Drip & Daydream Cycle at Saguijo; James Taylor Night w/ Paolo Santos & Pido at 70s Bistro; Bossa Nova w/ Sitti at Eastwood City Walk 2; Cooky Chua & Bayang Barrios at Conspiracy; Stand-Up Comedy at Coffee Bean (Alabang branch); Cuisine Royale w/ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Crash & Patrick G. at Temple; Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mezze; Piano Nights w/ Tito Duran at Azzurro Linden Suites; Sparkle w/ DJs Patch & Erwin Edralin at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Queens; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

Oct. 18, Wednesday

Skin, Sugarhiccup, Cherry Cornflakes & Champagne Morales at 6Underground; Hale & Sugarfree at 70s Bistro; Angulo & Dicta License at Saguijo; Sandwich at Metro Bar

DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Bliss w/ GP Reyes at Temple; The Bloomfields at Eastwood Fuente Circle; DJ Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; Skyy High w/ DJ Joy at Vida at Malate; Smooth Wednesdays at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Stereo Therapy at Embassy VIP Room; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati; DJ Brit at Government; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café

Oct. 19, Thursday

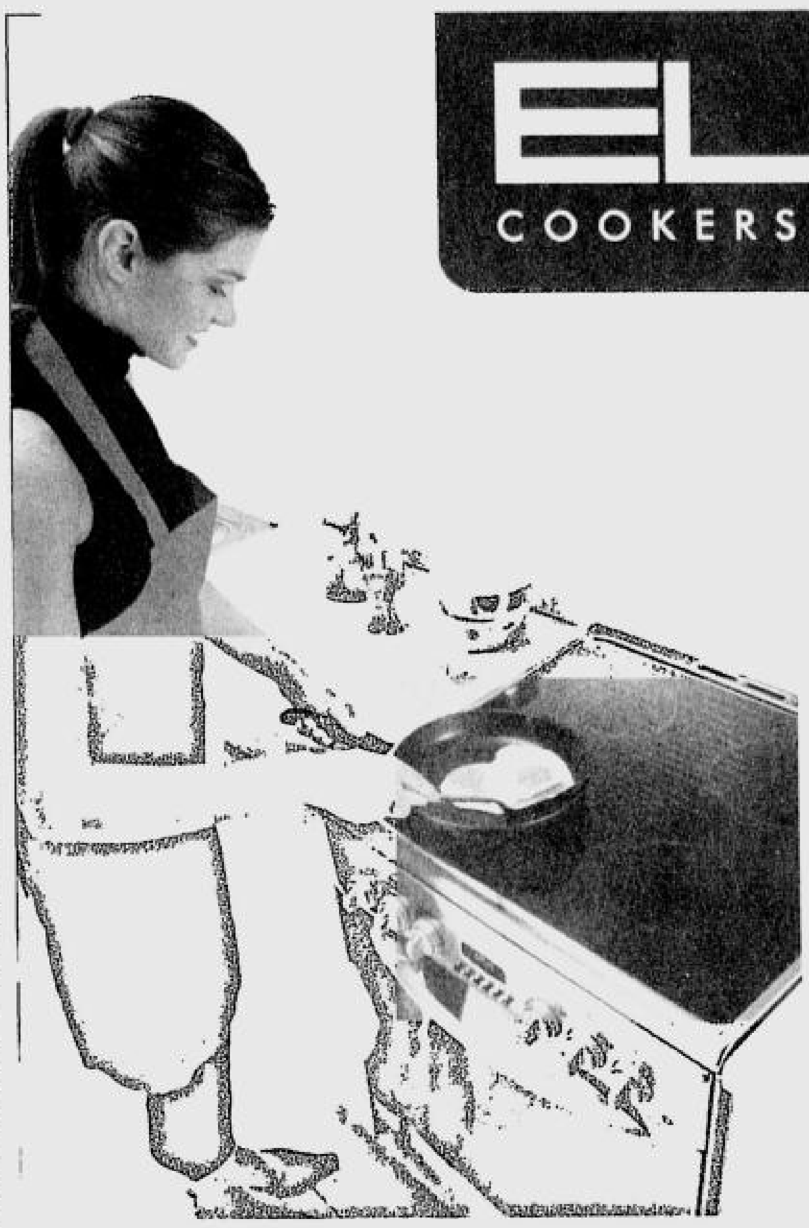
Imago, Calla Lily & Pedicab at 6Underground; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Eastwood City Walk 2; Itchyworms, Soapdish, Boldstar, Bagetsafonik, Hilera & Menaya at Saguijo; Jazz Festival at Conspiracy; Brownman Revival at 70s Bistro; Coup w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Fiamma; Rouge Thursdays at M Café ; Worldwide Thursdays w/ Soundsgood at Nuvo; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; SPIT at Mag:net Café; Ladies Night w/ DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Open Mic Night at Azzurro Linden Suites; G Lounge at Mezze; Thirsty Thirst-days at Bed; Ferdie Banal & Silk at Metro Bar; Stand-Up Comedy at Coffee Bean (Ortigas branch)

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Oct. 20, Friday

Bamboo at Casino Filipino; Narda, Wake Up Your Seat Mate, Paramita, Imago & Up Dharma Down at Saguijo; M.Y.M.P at Folk Arts Theater; Tony Orlando: Greatest Hits at Araneta Coliseum; Christian Bautista, Rachelle Anne Go & Sam Concepcion at Metro Bar; Razorback Anniversary at 6Underground; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy; Liquefied Orange at Shang Streetscape; Barbie Almalbis & Rocksteddy at SM Southmall; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; House Sessions w/ DJs Marc Naval, Bombi Balquiedra & Jakey Yulo at Fiamma; Sunshine w/ DJs Patch & Mon Maramba at Absinth; Acoustic Night w/ Boyet Vasquez at Azzurro Linden Suites; Style w/ DJ Steve Mills at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Darrel & McDash at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Route 70 at Merk's; Takeover w/ DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; It's time for a new Manila: The most kick-ass party's at the Metropolitan, Rockwell.

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com & mag24_7@yahoo.com.



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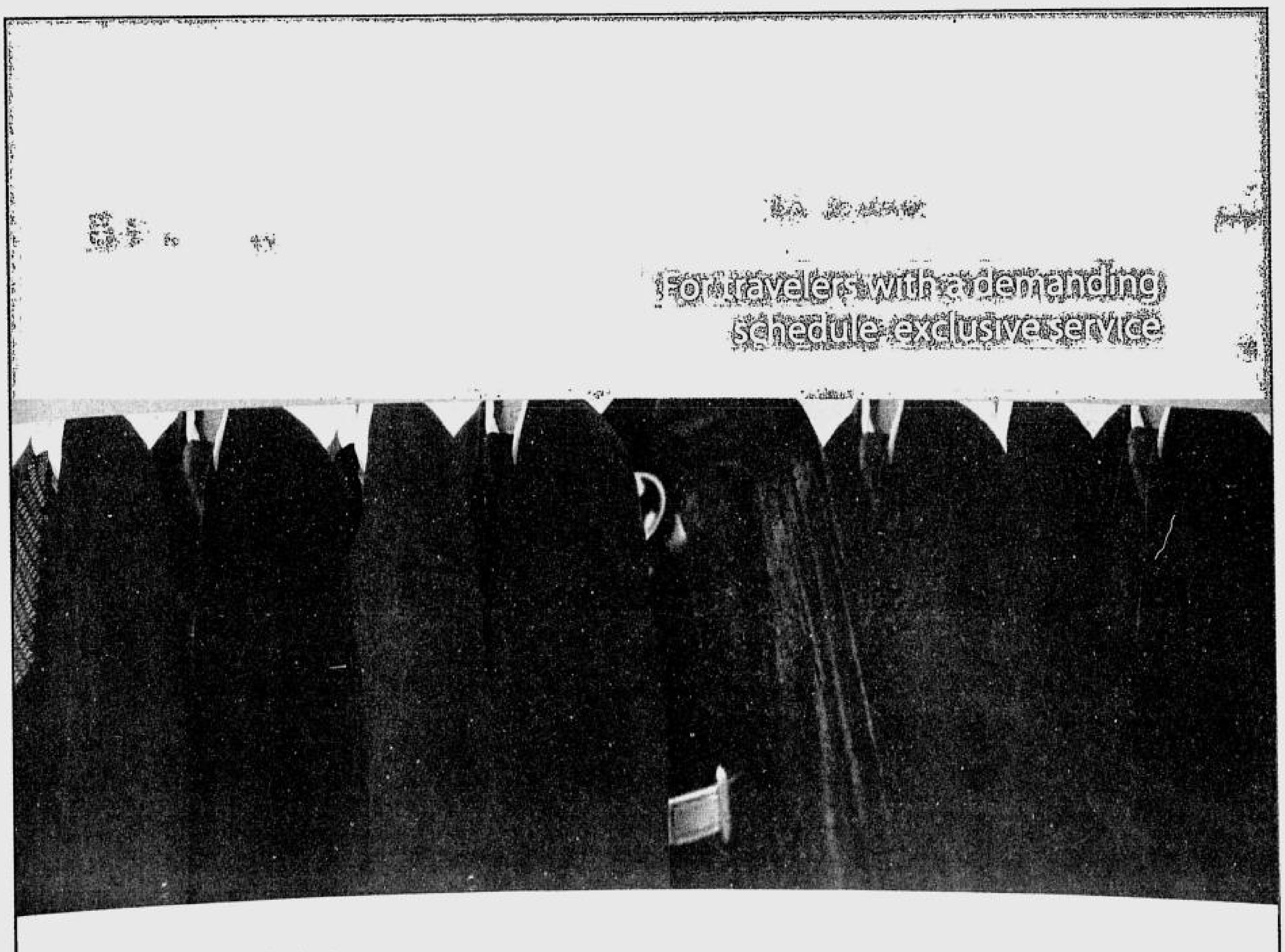
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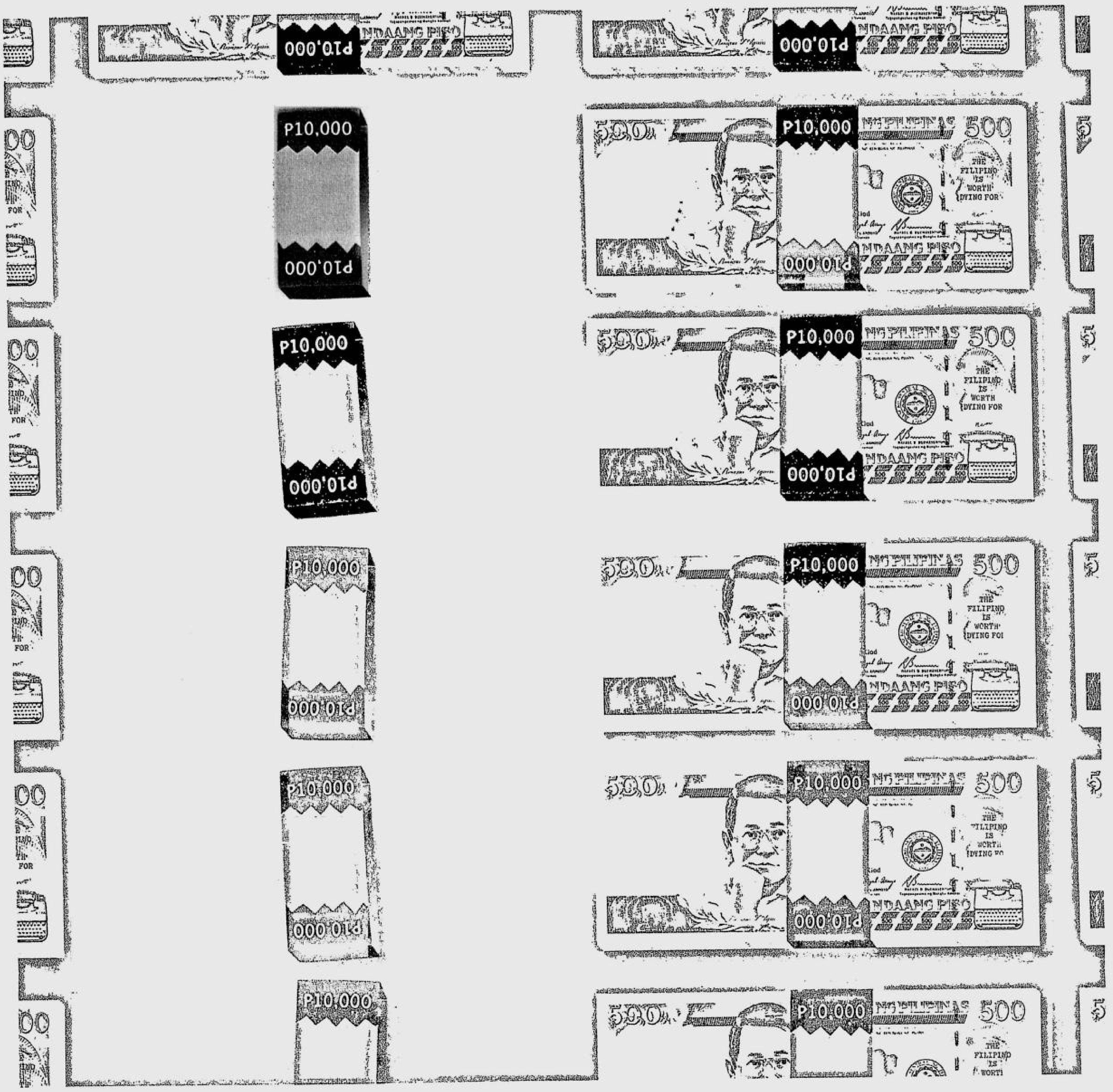

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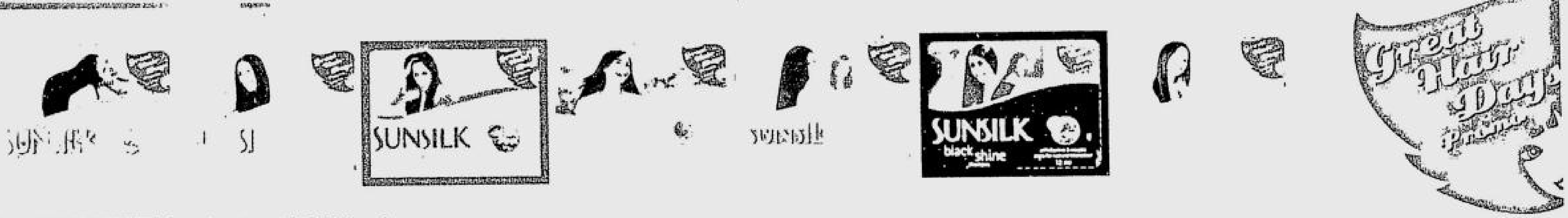

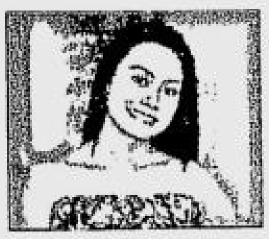

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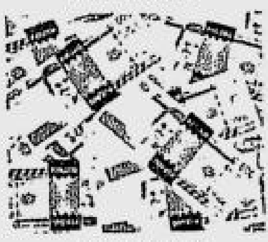

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NOW SHOWING

Sinners, saints and lovers

By Rito P. Asilo

"Till I Met You"

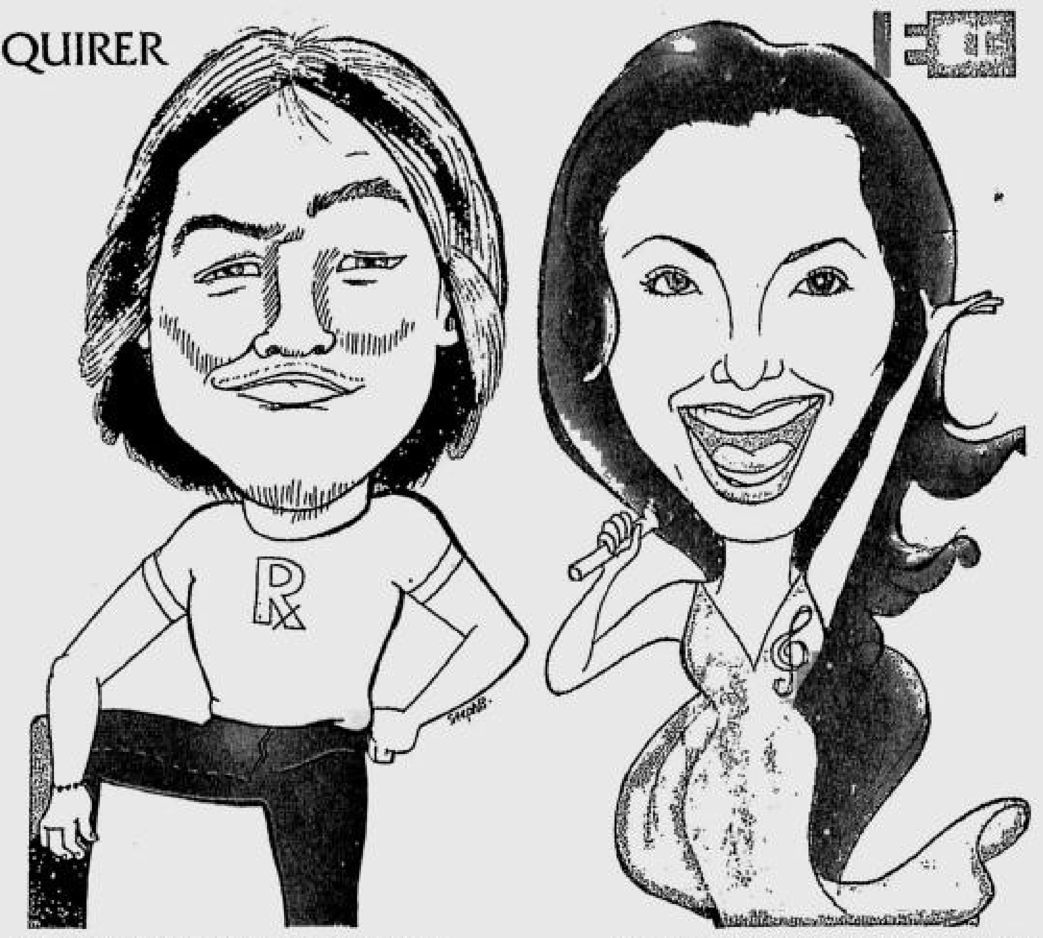
D: Mark Reyes

S: Robin Padilla, Regine Velasquez, Eddie Garcia

TRUST MARK REYES TO COME UP with a visually succulent, meticulously photographed feature, with toe-tapping musical numbers to boot. But, while the film is better than his recent five-hanky drama (the shallow and dragging "Eternity"), his latest production doesn't really offer a new perspective to the boy-meets-girl formula:

Robin (who's back in his crowd-pleasing, over-the-top acting schtick) plays Gabriel, who's out to expose Luisa (Regine Velasquez), a mysterious grifter who intends to marry his aging, affluent benefactor, *Señor* Manuel (Eddie Garcia), a widower for 30 years, so she can live a life of comfort and opportunity—and to escape a sketchy past.

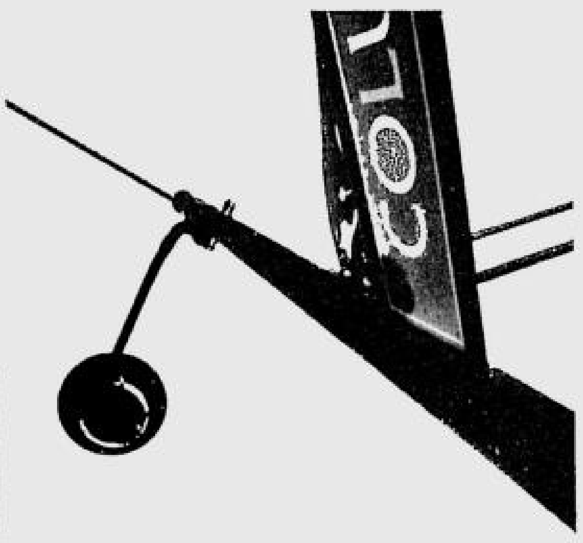
SINNERS/ E2



PADILLA AND VELASQUEZ. Easy vibe.

CARICATURES BY STEPH BRAVO AND ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Brittany BEAUTIFUL



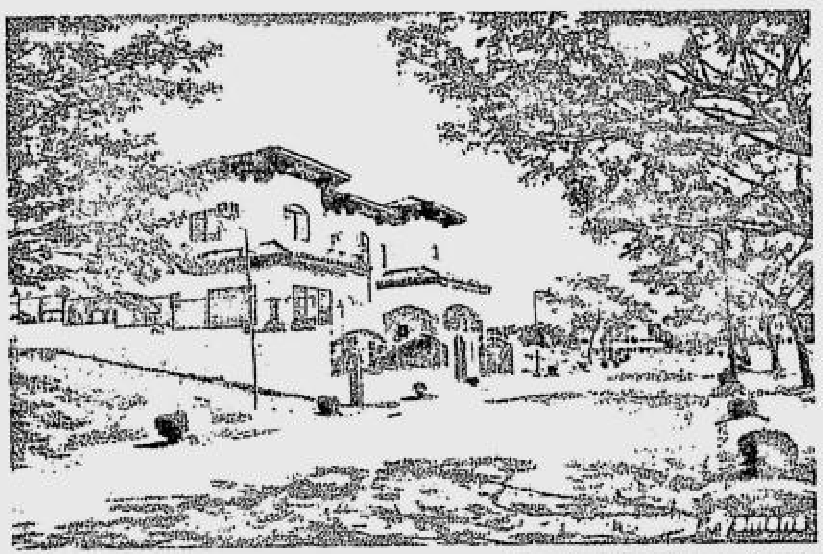


Photo by George Tapan

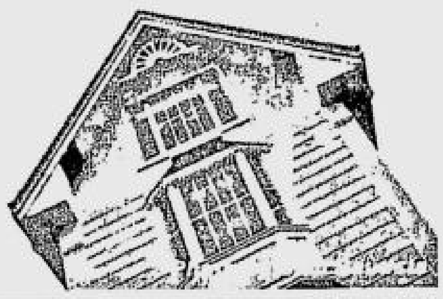
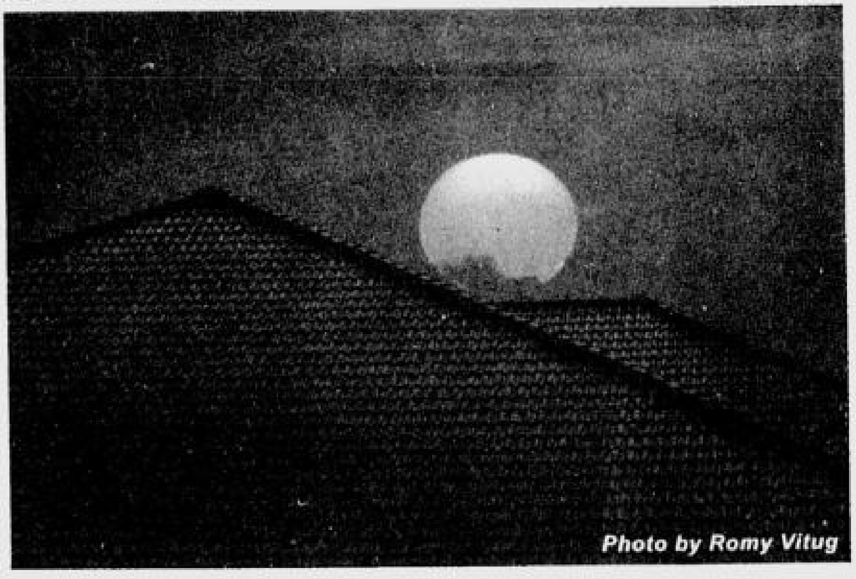


Photo by Jun de Leon



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Steak escapades at The Bellevue

THE BELLEVUE'S CAKE OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOber is Irish Cappuccino Cake, a moist and rich chocolate cake with macadamia dacquios and Irish mocha cream that will leave a lingering warmth of chocolate and coffee in the palate.

The City of Flowers brings its own culinary marvels at The Bellevue Hotel's Zambangueño Food Festival from Oct. 20 to 22. The festival will feature Zambangueño dishes during the lunch and dinner buffets at the hotel's main dining outlet, the Café D' Asie. Savor the flavours of Zamboanga and travel the world of exciting cuisines, only at The Bellevue!

The Bellevue Hotel this October becomes a haven for steak lovers. Enjoy a fascinating selection of juicy and succulent black gindara, chicken, turkey and minute steaks from Oct. 1 to 31, deliciously done to your liking at the hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Bar, while relishing city views and enjoying live bands. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao does it again!

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY HOSTING TO FOReign buyers and media delegates of the Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) last Jan. 18, Waterfront Hotels and Casinos once again take pride as it hosted the 17th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) at the Mega Trade Hall Conference room last Sept. 8. This time, Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao captivated all the guests to sumptuous traditional bamboo-cooked dishes, Kaimunan, served by no less than Waterfront's pool of culinary experts.

Through the initiative of its former hotel manager, Linie Cortez-Palacio, Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao proudly brought Kaimunan to PTM not only to showcase the culinary expertise of Waterfront but also for the guest to experience and relive the past through Kaimunan.

A common word spoken by the majority of the highland tribes in Davao; Kaimunan is a word that brings to life the full meaning of "gathering," exuding the feeling of an exciting adventure of the spirit to travel back in time to feel the simplicity of our forefather's way of life.

The use of bamboo is known to many tribes in different parts of Asia and definitely anyone belonging to the Malay race. It is used in cooking, drinking water, building homes, and many others. The bamboo is also a cooking ware because of the special flavor and aroma that it emits while cooking.

The ritual of the Kaimunan starts with the welcoming of the guests and the participants to the tribal assembly with sounds of the thunderous drums calling everyone gather and partake in the welcoming drinks, giving toast to this festive event or the chewing of beetle nuts as a show of unity. As the guests gather to the party area, there is a show of exquisite traditional basket weaving, beadwork and of looms showing fabric weaving.

Kaimunan truly came alive in the incredibly lush garden paradise of the Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao, leaving unforgettable memories of good times and good food to the guest and the desire for next year's celebration!

The Continental Club at The Marco Polo Plaza

THE CONTINENTAL CLUB AT the Marco Polo Plaza in Cebu has opened to welcome guests as of Oct. 6.

Dedicated to providing high standards of executive floor accommodation and hospitality for the seasoned business traveler, the Continental Club of the Marco Polo Plaza boasts exclusive accommodation, business and leisure facilities and personalized service unparalleled in Cebu.

In addition to the usual features of The Marco Polo Plaza, guests enjoy a wide range of benefits and services. Continental Club privileges: complimentary buffet breakfast; complimentary coffee and tea in the lounge throughout the day; complimentary cocktails; complimentary pressing; complimentary laundry services; shoe shine service; mini business center; exclusive use of the boardroom and conference room; packing and unpacking services; secretarial services and fruit plate. The Lounge opens at 6:30 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m.

Conceptualized as a hotel within a hotel, the Club concept aims to redefine standards of executive accommodation. A wealth of services, combined with the luxury of accommodation, makes staying at the Continental Club a truly memorable experience.

OktoberFiesta 2006

September 15 to October 27

CELEBRATE OKTOBERFIESTA AT Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel and relive the fiesta tradition of beer drinking, merry making and endless feasting on superb cuisine.

Fiesta San Miguel's OktoberFiesta is the most anticipated... Where else can you enjoy servings of half a liter of freshly brewed San Miguel beer for as long as three hours for only P300!? Want more? For a minimum of 5 persons availing the 'Bottoms Up at 3', get a free appetizer.

OktoberFiesta not only offers excellent Filipino fare, but for this special occasion, also a variety of typical Bavarian dishes such as pork knuckles and sausages, Sauerkraut and Bratkartoffeln and more. What best to accompany these mouth-watering specialties than with a cold glass of San Miguel beer freshly brewed in the restaurant. At Fiesta San Miguel, they made the daunting task of choosing the best food with your fresh beer easier with their Pinoy and German Beer Match combinations starting at P320.00++.

Experience Fiesta San Miguel's exciting beer fest, partake on sumptuous fare, party hard with their exhilarating live band entertainment and get the chance to win fabulous prizes in the raffle*.

*Dine and party at Fiesta San Miguel starting Sept. 15 to Oct. 27. A minimum single receipt of P1,000 entitles you to join the raffle.

For inquiries and reservations, call 867-3333 extension 3308.

Segafredo brewing Europe's number one coffee

THE WORLD'S ONLY FULLY INTEGRATED COFFEE company; Segafredo Zanetti Café-Bar continues to assert its lead with state-of-the-art technology and topnotch coffee sellers. This Italian brand, synonymous with authentic espresso is touted to be Europe's number one espresso -- the same brand that was selected as the official coffee drink of Casa Azzurri, the Italian soccer embassy that housed the Italian champion team in the recently concluded World Soccer Championship.

Coffee is the second most consumed beverage in the world, next to water. Next to oil, it is the second most valued commodity in the world.

Filipinos love to drink coffee. They know good coffee when they taste one, Faced with so many options, choosing can be a quite a task. Here, none can duplicate Segafredo Zanetti's brilliant quality. Coffee by Segafredo Zanetti would smell just as heavenly and tastes as you would like it to be. Enjoying Segafredo espresso expresses a true love for coffee - its robust quality and tantalizing aroma , blending with sweet additions such as cakes , pastries and muffins. The menu also includes rice dishes and main courses with paninis, pizzas, pastas, wines and spirits for a complementary dining experience as well.

Segafredo Zanetti Espresso bar is situated at the ground floor of Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center and at The Podium in Ortigas.

Malayan Plaza pre-holiday escapades

MALAYAN PLAZA, THE NEWEST AND TRENDIest hotel in the Ortigas Center offers special Pre-Holiday Room Escapades for business and leisure travelers as well as local residents alike. Check in and enjoy the comforts of home in a Studio Suite for only P2,888 net inclusive of buffet breakfast, complimentary fruit platter, free use of the fitness center and pool, complimentary bottled mineral water and free local newspaper. You may also enjoy the classy and tastefully - furnished interiors of a one - bedroom suite for only P3,888 net with the same deluxe amenities.

Special room rates are valid until Dec. 31. The Malayan Plaza is located at ADB Avenue corner Opal Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. It is ideally within walking distance to leading malls, commercial centers, business addresses and corporate institutions. For inquires and reservations please call telephone number (632)706-0055 or visit our website at www.quantumsuites.com

People, Events & Products

Acer Philippines reaches out to PGH kids

ACER PHILIPPINES RECENTLY DONATED TO THE PEDIATRICS WARD OF the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) as part of its corporate social responsibility efforts. Company employees trooped to the hospital where they gave boxes of medical supplies and goodie bags for the children. Acer Philippines also gave free meals to the patients and their relatives. Acer Philippines is at the forefront of promoting a holistically developed society. The company recognizes the importance of keeping its employees socially aware. Through the leadership of its General manager, Manuel Wong, Acer Philippines has embarked in numerous CSR efforts.

Superbrands tribute award for Charantia

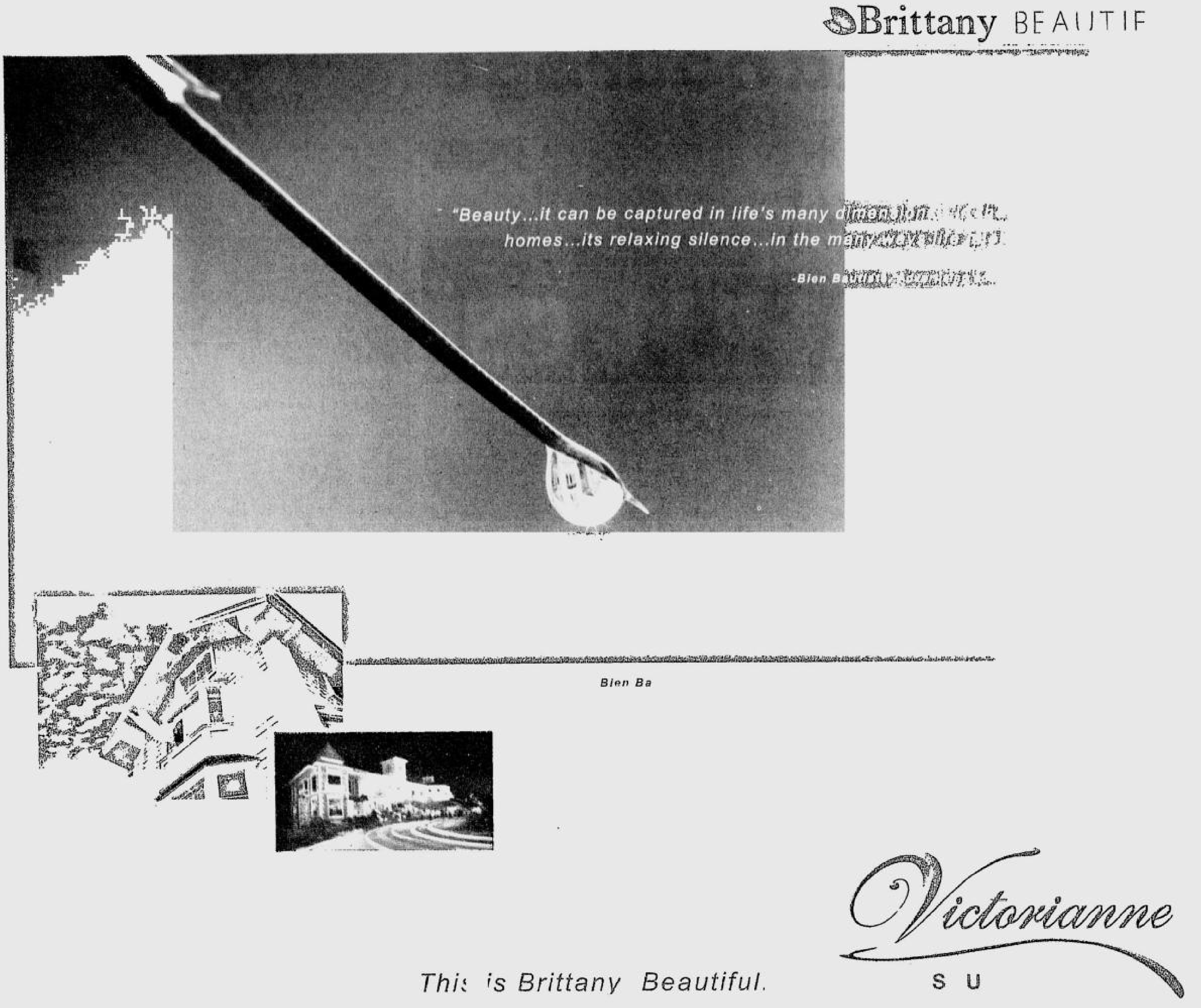
THE LEADING AMPALAYA FOOD SUPPLEMENT WAS GIVEN LAST SEPT. 7 a tribute award as part of the 2005-06 batch of products with the Superbrands seal. The seal distinguishes Charantia for its market dominance in both mind and market shares in its category. Launched five years ago, Charantia was the first Ampalaya brand in the country, paving the way for other brands to emulate its success. Also testament to Charantia's strong leadership is the fact that it is the official food supplement of Operation Diabetes, the Department of Health-endorsed nationwide diabetes control and prevention program. Much of the growing popularity of Ampalaya around the world is attributed to Charantia, now exported worldwide under different names.

Monterey live cooking demo in Bulacan

SERIOUS COOKS AND COOKING ENTHUSIASTS ARE EXPECTED TO take part in Monterey's 'MVP on Wheels', a series of cooking demonstrations, to be held today, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Brgy. Perez Hall St. Peter Street Ph3A, Sto Niño, Meycauayan, Bulacan. Event participants also get a chance to win in the raffle draw and games with exciting prizes. Registration starts at 2 p.m. Special gift packs await the first 50 registered participants. Interested parties, may call (02) 633-MEAT (6328) or 0917-533-(MEAT). To register for free, simply present your MVP card upon registration or sign up for an MVP card on site.

The Sun Shop opens at SM City Clark

SUN CELLULAR RECENTLY OPENED ANOTHER BRANCH OF THE SUN SHOP at the 2nd level, SM City Clark. Clark Special Economic Zone townsfolk and the Angeles City community can now enjoy the convenience of checking out SUN Cellular's fabulous offers such as the Free Camera Phones at Plan 350 and the SUN Bond Subscription that offers postpaid subscription without any document requirements at The SUN Shop. They may also avail of the SUN SIM Blast Promo, which offers discounted rates for every group purchase of Call and Text Unlimited (CTU) and Text Unlimited (TU) Prepaid SIM Packs. Until Oct. 31, customers may purchase three CTU SIMs for only P375 and save P75, or get a free TU SIM if they purchase two TU SIMs for only P198.



Brittany BEAUTIF

"Beauty...it can be captured in life's many dim
homes...its relaxing silence...in the ma
-Bien B

Bien Ba

Victorianne

This is Brittany Beautiful.

S U

Sinners, saints and lovers

From page E1

But, as fate would have it, Gabriel and Luisa soon fall for each other—a situation that drives Luisa into a moral and romantic denouement: She has to choose between the handsome but uncouth charmer who makes her high heels shake *and* the well-meaning *haciendero* who assures her of a comfortable future. What's a girl to do?!

Reyes uses a lush *hacienda* and the picture-perfect countryside as backdrops to boost a thin story that relies heavily on the easy vibe between Robin and Regine (that's more evident in the amusing bloopers and outtakes at the end of the movie).

Unfortunately, while the scenes are briskly edited, it's the story that trudges along slowly before it makes its not-so-insightful, worn-out moral—perhaps, because there's *really* not much story to tell, in the first place.

Even if his character is only used as a narrative device to showcase the film's romantic protagonists, Garcia ably transforms a familiar caricature into a sympathetic figure.

This time around, Regine looks less awkward and shows dramatic insight and depth, particularly in two memorable scenes: While she silently, painfully gazes at her ramshackle hut (a reminder of her painful past), and as she pleads, "*Bakit hindi puwede*?," when Robin's character refuses to runaway with her. (Cameo alert: A relaxed Kuh Ledesma as a—hold your breath—*sosyal*-looking market vendor!)

Despite a gratingly shrill Mike "Pekto" Nacua, who plays Robin's sidekick (and some logic-defying scenes that show Regine in high heels after riding a horse), it's pleasing to note that Reyes' film doesn't cop-out with a fairy-tale finale.

Instead, the story settles on a compromise—for the fans, of course—by adding a sweet, Joonee Gamboa-narrated epilogue that puts a fitting finale to the duo's unfinished romantic duet.

ROBIN AND REGINE. Charm fans in latest team-up.

"The Departed"

D: Martin Scorsese

S: Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Mark Wahlberg

Martin Scorsese, largely regarded as America's greatest living director, returns with one of the best films of the year-a remake of Andrew Lau and Alan Mak's award-winning 2002 crime drama, "Infernal Affairs" (that starred Hong Kong's Tony Leung and Andy Lau).

This time, Scorsese's scorching cops-and-robbers tale is set in Boston, where the police are waging an all-out war to take down the city's top organized crime ring, headed by Irish-American mobster, Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson).

Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), two men from opposite sides of the law, are assigned to infiltrate enemy territory, but when discoveries are made about their respective missions, the star-crossed pair is dispatched to weed out their opponent's identity from the ranks, and thus go after each other. Soon, they realize that separating sinners from saints is just as hard as choosing right from wrong.

Back in fine form after a couple of mainstream-pleasing cinematic compromises ("The Aviator," "Casino"), Scorsese steers a fast-paced, edge-of-your-seat cat-and-mouse chase that is by turns exciting and horrifying.

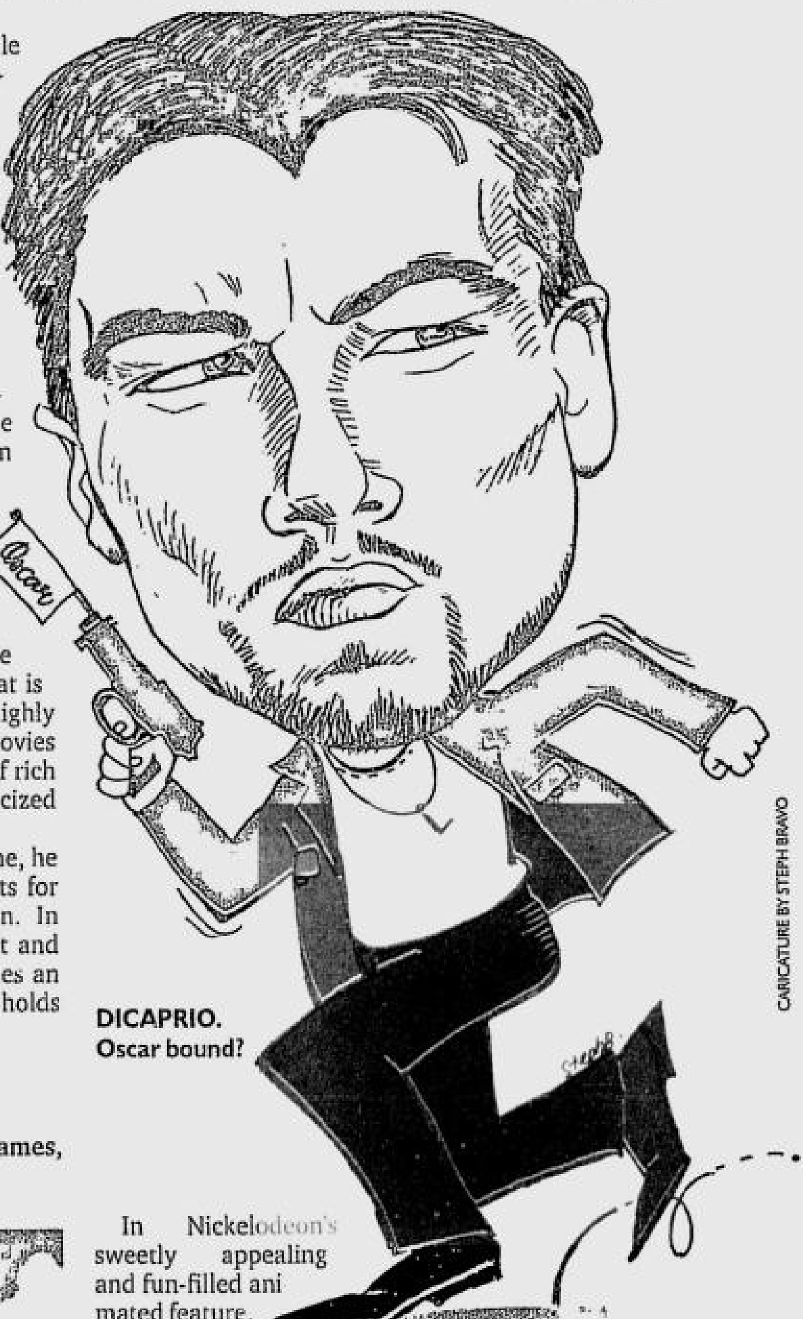
He masterfully crafts a film that is as entertaining and accessible as it is relevant and violent. We won't give spoilers here—just make a beeline for the nearest queue and bask in the moviemaking magic of Scorsese and his magnificent cast:

Heartbreaking and sympathetic in his intensity, DiCaprio turns in one of the most accomplished performances of his career (Oscar watchers, take note!), while Nicholson transcends the limitations of his bad-guy role by creating a portrayal that is three-dimensional in characterization and motivation.

Damon doesn't do badly, either, but he is limited by a personality that lacks the *gravitas* to pull off a character that's supposed to simmer with inner turmoil. (Remember how Jude Law stole the thunder from him in Anthony Minghella's seminal mind-bender, "The Talented Mr. Ripley"?)

Scorsese accomplishes something we didn't think was possible: He delivers a smart remake that is better that the otherwise highly polished original. His movies present a dizzying palette of rich but compellingly unromanticized human experiences.

With subtlety and panache, he leaves philosophical nuggets for viewers to contemplate on. In this movie, as lives are lost and alliances severed, he dangles an intriguing axiom: "Heaven holds the faithful departed."



CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

DICAPRIO. Oscar bound?

"Barnyard"

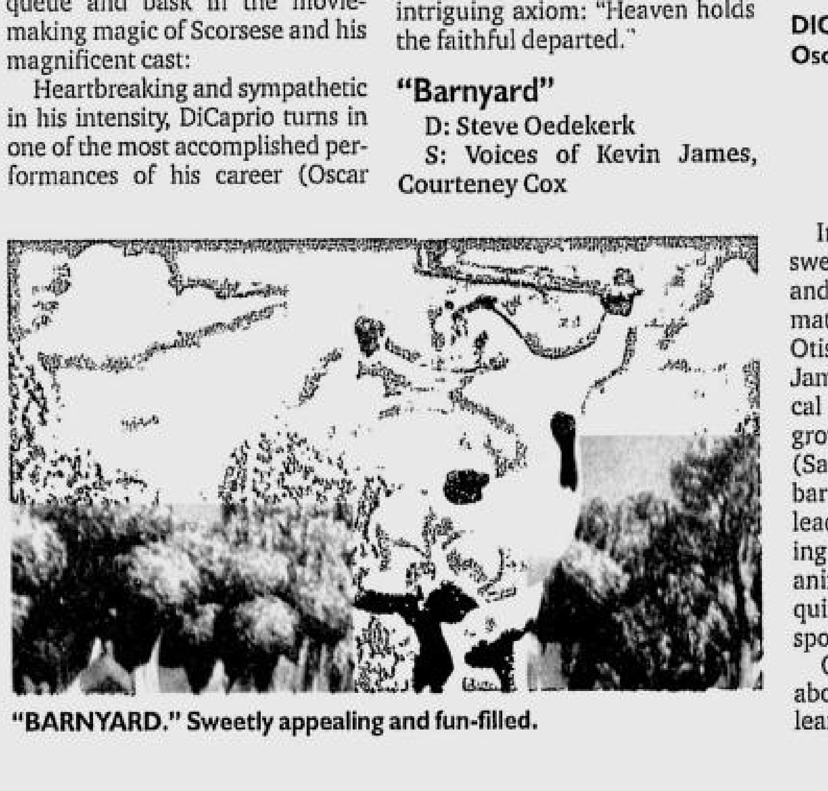
D: Steve Oedekerk

S: Voices of Kevin James, Courteney Cox

In Nickelodeon's sweetly appealing and fun-filled animated feature, Otis (Kevin James), a goofy, practical joke-loving cow, learns to grow up when his father, Ben (Sam Elliott), the leader of a farm barnyard, is no longer able to lead. But, he realizes that watching the fence and guarding farm animals from wily coyotes require him to grow up and take responsibility seriously.

Otis is taught valuable lessons about family and duty—and he learns them the hard way, along with his trickster and prankster friends: The voracious Pig; the carefree and opinionated Pip, the mouse; the soft-spoken and level-headed Peck, the rooster, and the neurotic Freddy, the ferret (who's torn by his natural desire to eat his best friend, Peck).

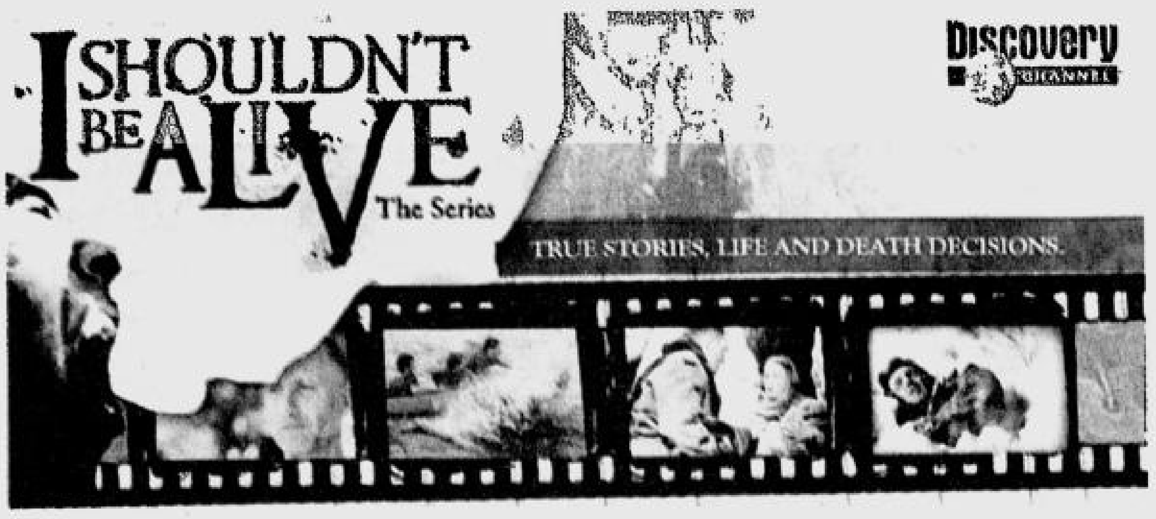
But, it's never too late to stand up and fight for something his father has taught him: A strong man stands for himself, a stronger man stands for others!



"BARNYARD." Sweetly appealing and fun-filled.

Amazing stories of faith and courage

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez



NEW reality program enables televiewers to see life from a philosophical perspective.

"I SHOULDN'T BE ALIVE," AIRED on the Discovery Channel every Saturday, tells true and amazing stories of men and women caught in horrifying circumstances that test their faith and courage—in shark-infested waters, on deserted islands, even inside the crater of a volcano!

One story involves three men on a sailing expedition who end up stranded on a remote island after their yacht sinks. They have no food or water for six days. They become delusional—they see ships or planes in the horizon, and say senseless things.

Suicide

One of them considers suicide—until his companion talks him out of it. Help comes after some Mexican fisher-smugglers find them. After arguing with the Mexicans—who know no English—the survivors are taken onboard and are given lots of water to drink.

Another story involves three men and two women, whose pastime is sailing. After their yacht sinks, all they're left with is a life raft. One woman's leg is severely injured and the wound even exposes her bone.

Four days into the ordeal, two of the men begin to drink seawater to quench their thirst, and later turn delusional. They soon jump into the water—to the horror of their three companions! Some 20 sharks lose no time in feasting on them.

On the fifth day, the injured woman dies. The two survivors spend two more days in the middle of the ocean, until a Russian tanker rescues them.

While obviously not for the faint-hearted, "I Shouldn't Be Alive" is nevertheless as informative as it is moving. It utilizes computer-generated graphics that detail how dehydration affects a man's brain and kidney functions.

Panic

It shows how one's external environment is linked to the human nervous system, and how the human heart "behaves" in the midst of panic.

But, more than the substantial health information it offers, the series enables televiewers to see life from a philosophical perspective.

The survivors narrate how their ordeal has become their wake-up call, and why people ought not to take their lives—and their loved ones—for granted.

The series reveals how adversity and desperate circumstances bring out the best in human beings—and that generous and compassionate people still exist!

'Legally Blonde' finds new life as a musical on Broadway

BUNDY. Girl power on the Great White Way.

NEW YORK—LAURA BELL Bundy will be wielding girl power on Broadway.

Bundy will star as Elle Woods in a musical version of "Legally Blonde," based on the hit movie starring Reese Witherspoon and the novel by Amanda Brown.

It will open in April 2007 at the Palace Theater. San Francisco will see the musical first, with a five-week engagement at the Golden Gate Theater starting Jan. 23 next year.

Directorial debut

The show, with music and lyrics by Nell Benjamin and Laurence O'Keefe and a book by Heather Hach, tells the story of a determined young woman who, when dumped by her boyfriend, goes to Harvard Law School.

The musical marks the Broadway directorial debut of Jerry Mitchell, who won a Tony Award last year for his choreography for the revival of "La Cage aux Folles."

Bundy has appeared on Broadway in such shows as "Hairspray," where she originated the role of Amber Von Tussle, and "Wicked," where she replaced Kristin Chenoweth as Glinda, the good witch. *AP*

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25 entries make it to Cinemalaya semifinals

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER TWO SUCCESSFUL years, the Cinemalaya Alternative Film Festival and Competition has established itself as an effective and popular showcase for the short and full-length works of new filmmakers.

An indication of how favorably the festival is perceived by many movie people is the good record of its films in international festivals, where some of them have won top prizes.

240 entries

Another is the record number of story entries—240—that have been submitted for consideration for the third edition of the full-length competition next year.

The festival's selection committee in the full-length category has gone over all 240 synopses and treatment proposals and has selected 25 semi-finalists, which are listed here with their respective proponents:

"Ang Biyahe: Pasadang Langit," Abdulmari Imao Jr. "Atin Cu Pung Singsing," Agnes de Guzman. "At Nilikha ng Diyos si Hilario Espiritusanto," Reggie Gulle. "Broken Chords," Alexis Almario. "Endo," Jade Castro. "Fidel," Charlotte Averiz, Gale Dianco.

"Gima," Adolfo Alix Jr. "Gulong," Romualdo Fajardo, Anna Liza Fajardo. "Hagulgol ng Balangiga," Anril Tiatco. "Hubad," Denisa Reyes, Rody Vera. "Ligaw-Liham," Jay Abello. "Kung Giunsa Pagbuhat ang Bisayang Law-uy," Charliebebs Gohetia. "Mga Ina, Mga Anak," Reynaldo Manalo, Rito Asilo.

"Pagguhit ng Bilog," Paul Morales. "Pagluha ng Talon," John Nepomuceno. "Pisay (Science High)," Aureaus Solito. "Puerto," Noel Mendoza. "Sa Gawing Dito, Tabingi ang Mundo," Joel Ruiz. "Sa Wakas, Ang Simula," Ma. Andrea Angala Shy.

"Singungaling na Buwan," Ed Lejano Jr. "Still Life," Katrina Flores. "Tatay na si Totoy," Ronaldo Mangubat. "Tribu," Jim Libiran. "Tukso," Dennis Marasigan. "2,999," James Arnold Ladioray.

Next step

The next step is for all 25 semifinalists to be developed into full screenplays, which will be read and deliberated upon by the committee.

Toward the end of the year, 10 finalists will be chosen, and each one of them will be given a seed production grant of P500,000 by Tonyboy Cojuangco's group.

Hopes are high that the 2007 Cinemalaya festival and competition will be the finest one yet, with all 10 grantees working hard to come up with their best work.

Some of the grantees in the short and full-length categories of the first two editions of Cinemalaya have won plaudits both here and abroad, with a number of them being tapped by producers to do follow-up work in mainstream cinema.

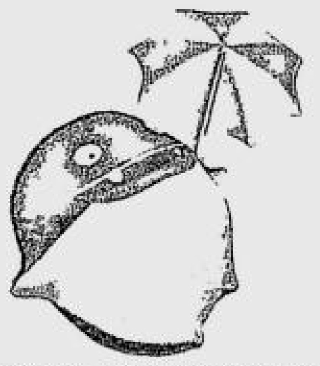
First digital feature

They include Mario Cornejo, who recently megged Star Cinema's "First Day High," Aureaus Solito, who directed "Tuli," and Rica Arevalo, who was asked by National Artist Eddie Romero to script his first digital feature.

We trust that other Cinemalaya grantees will similarly be encouraged to reach out to the wider mainstream audience, which will surely benefit from the freshness of their daring and vision.

Throwing the perfect Par-tee

By Lorena Martelino



The scorching summer heat has finally given way to the muggy months. The savvy denizens of our fair metropolis Manila are now trundling back into the groove of (or the craziness of) the workplace, shaking off the vacation mood and refocusing on the tasks at hand.

Yes, yes, I know. there are some of us who can't seem to flee from the shackles of the corporate beehive. Busy, busy, busy workers are we, droning away in our little hives of a job. But don't knock it babe, some of us love what we do, so sometimes, we just gotta roll with the punches.

No need to fret. In this Jetsons world of cellphone toting, MP3-player carrying, and internet savoir-faire, there are a multitude of ways to deload and de-stress. Chatting and instant messaging goes beyond utilitarian as we fully maximize the technology available to us to come together and socialize.

Case in point. when Mr. Marc Concio, marketing head of PLDT myDSL, wanted to throw a stress-busting, friendship-building, post-summer rah rah activity for his colleagues and friends, he turned to technology to kick things off. In the rush to be diligent and productive, the schedules of Marc's friends seemed to intertwine into a freakish jumble of halo-halo. The date and time and place morphed into a logistical nightmare. Who would've thought that organizing a party would grow into such a headache?

But, creativity and ingenuity abound with us Filipinos. Marc turned to his trusty monitor and light bulbs went off in his head. Right off, he knew that convenience would be key for his guests, so on a twist to the "come-as-you-are" party of yore, Marc sent out invitations to everyone for a "stay-where-you-are" party instead. But this wasn't just going to be any kind of party, it was a golf tournament!

Yep, you heard me right sweetie. The guys and gals of Smart Telecommunications and ePLDT were invited to golf tournament and they didn't even have to leave their offices. They were all invited to join the golf course virtually in a Pangya tournament!

How to bring everyone together to a golf course when they're all in different places? Simple, honeybunch. Just a few clicks of a mouse and voila! Install Pangya (the installer CDs are free babies. just go to any Netopia branch and ask for one) in your PC or laptop, log on the internet and register your account and you're off! These partygoers opened up a virtual room of their own in the Pangya universe and were holding their very own tournament in no time!

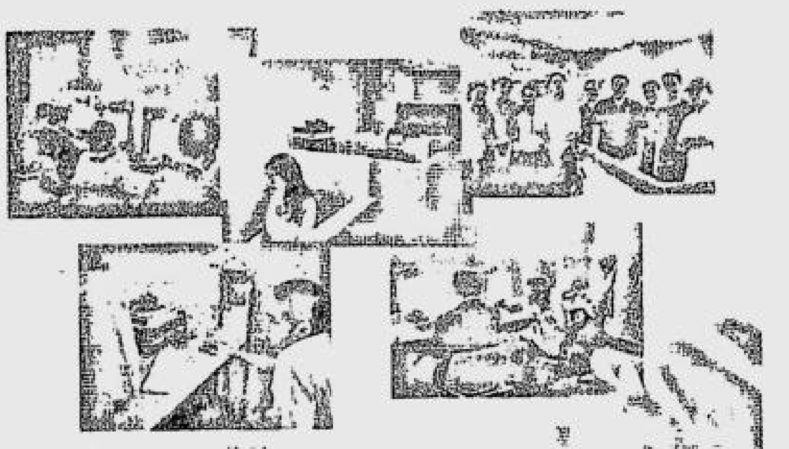
Now, I know what you're all thinking. Golf is the game of the landed. It's not anymore, no siree. Pangya, my dears, can be played for the best price of all: free. And get this, it's free for life. Sweet deal isn't it? You gotta believe me when I say this is the new lifestyle baby!

Casual is the name of the game. Casual as in you don't need to know squat about computers and all those high-fallutin techno-geeky-terms. "When I first tried it, I was able to learn how to play the game in a matter of minutes! A little practice with timing and I was happily whacking golf balls into the fairway. It's great!" enthused Mr. JC Medina, head of Data Services Group, ePLDT.

In the realms of Pangya. classic golf play elements are mixed in with fantasy role playing to create a unique blend of inventive, catchy gaming. It blasts to smithereens the myth of golf being a game for stuffy old codgers. This game is the game to play to all age groups, from young teens to distinguished golfers.

Babes and guys (or, ehem, gentlemen and ladies) are all going agog over this latest addition to how people party. With its 3D anime-inspired graphics and total ease of play, everyone was into it in no time at all. It wasn't difficult to convince everyone to join either.

Gemma Alcantara, managing director of Beginnings Communications shared, "A lot of us already hold office tournaments anyway. so this was a great invitation and a fantastic chance to play with new friends. It's fabulous stress-reliever. It's totally become a part of my life! When you just want to kind of veg out or space out or center yourself from the noise of the day, you can open up a Pangya game, tee-off and hit a few holes (or try at least) and a few minutes later, you feel very relaxed."



The nods of concurrence told me that young, fabulous professionals were truly in the loop on this one. I mean, really, what better way to bust those tense shoulders and heaving chests after a long day. right? You should have been there when Oliver Susano, application developer of ePLDT, screamed, "I really go gaga over Pangya! If I have a few minutes to spare, I do a quick 3 hole stroke game. When I really get into it, I try to play through the whole expansive 18 whole course."

For those who like to display when they play, bling-bling is another aspect of the game that is quite fun. You get to dress up your character and completely make-over what it looks like. Bling it on!

So there we were, all these corporate warriors suddenly turned into a group of giggling, carousing, laughing, cajoling gaggle of gleeful partygoers. Shouts of success rang out every time someone's screen flashed with the word "Pangya" to denote the sweet success of hitting a perfectly timed shot.

Now isn't this a wonderful showcase of how emerging digital technologies make the world smaller for us all? So who won this little tournament that Mr. Concio organized? A little birdie told me that the guys from ePLDT topped this tournament, but no one was a sore loser, in fact, they've already scheduled another inter-office tournament par-tee. Now talk about making the perfect hit!

Make haste slowly, Sam Milby

By Nestor U. Torre

SAM MILBY'S HANDLERS are taking a big risk by casting the tyro Fil-Am actor in Channel 2's latest drama series, "Maging Sino Ka Man." As most everybody knows, Sam is duskily handsome, flashes a killer smile, and has a hit film under his belt—so, what's the problem?

Sam's Achilles Heel as an actor is his general inability to speak a sentence in Filipino without stumbling and fumbling, or putting in some English words to help him over the linguistic bumps on the road.

Yes, he's yet another one of those Fil-Ams (or Fil-Aussies, Fil-Brits, Fil-Swiss, etc.) who launch acting careers in the Philippines without first learning to speak the local language well.

Fascination

Instead, they brashly make-do with Americanese, Taglish, or Engalog, hoping that Pinoys' fascination with Tisoys will help them pass muster.

Trouble is, their linguistic difficulties make competent acting a dodgy proposition for them. This is because they're concentrating so much on sounding passably good or not making verbal booboos that they can't focus on insightful characterization and the natural expression of emotions, which are what good acting is all about.

Worse, Fil-Ams' generally limited ability to speak Filipino drastically limits their roles to *Balikbayan* or rich-kid characters, of whom we've had much too many on our local screens.

Awkward mix

That's the sort of role Sam played in his recent film, and on his new TV series, he speaks in an awkward mix of English and Filipino yet again. —So much for thespic growth.

Well, Sam's defenders may counter, he was hobbled with the same problem in his film, and yet it turned out to be a hit. So, why should his showing on his new series be any different?

The big difference is, the movie was a one-shot deal, while the TV series is made up of many more episodes, and the problem is thus enlarged and extended, so it could end up as a major limitation and liability that the actor may not be able to survive.

Also, it's far easier to cover up a limitation like difficulty with language in one movie than in a multi-episode drama series, where the actor has many more lines of dialogue to speak.

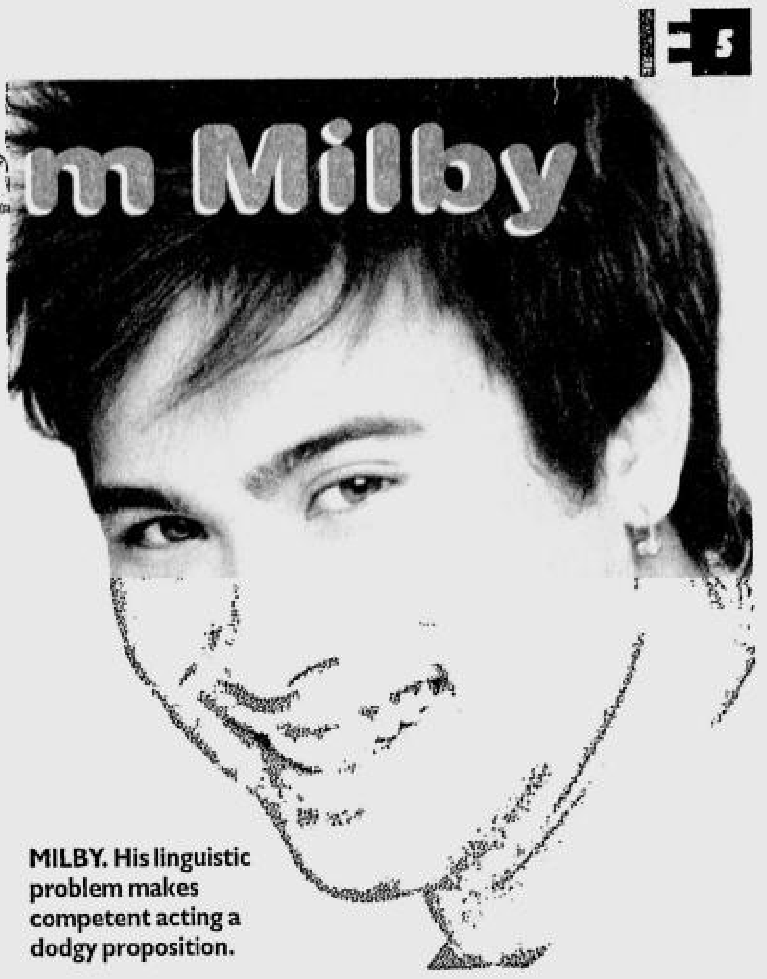
Challenging reality

Despite this challenging reality, we hope that Sam Milby will pass muster in his first TV series. However, if his recent guest stint on a TV drama show is any indication, his language problem remains a major limitation.

Acting with Denise Laurel, Sam played yet another generally Taglish- or English-speaking character, with predictable and desultory results and consequences.

Will his new soap be able to surmount the problem? We'll be watching—with fingers crossed.

As for the other Tisoys living abroad who are thinking of trying their luck in Philippine entertainment, make haste slowly and take six months to learn how to speak Filipino well before you knock on show biz doors here! Do your audience—and yourself—a big favor.



MILBY. His linguistic problem makes competent acting a dodgy proposition.

UNITED LABORA
MULTIVITAMINS

MIA Pascual (left) of Pascual Laboratories, Rosan Cruz of Benpress, Francis del Rosario, VP MAP and Rebecca B. Singson, MD.

Seven keys to competitiveness

THE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (MAP), under the leadership of Evelyn R. Singson, had over 600 participants during its fifth international CEO conference, "Reversing the Trend, Turning the Bend—Recipes for Competitiveness," at the Makati Shangri-La last Oct. 11.

Standards

Francis del Rosario, the group's vice president, shared that the seven "musts" to raise standards that serve as keys to competitiveness are:

1. Care more than others.
2. Dream more than others think is practical.
3. Do more than others think is possible.
4. Change more than others think is safe.
5. Be more positive than others.
6. Be more creative. Have fun!
7. Celebrate small successes along the way.

Dreams

The late Christopher Reeve once said: "At first, dreams seem impossible, then improbable—then inevitable!"

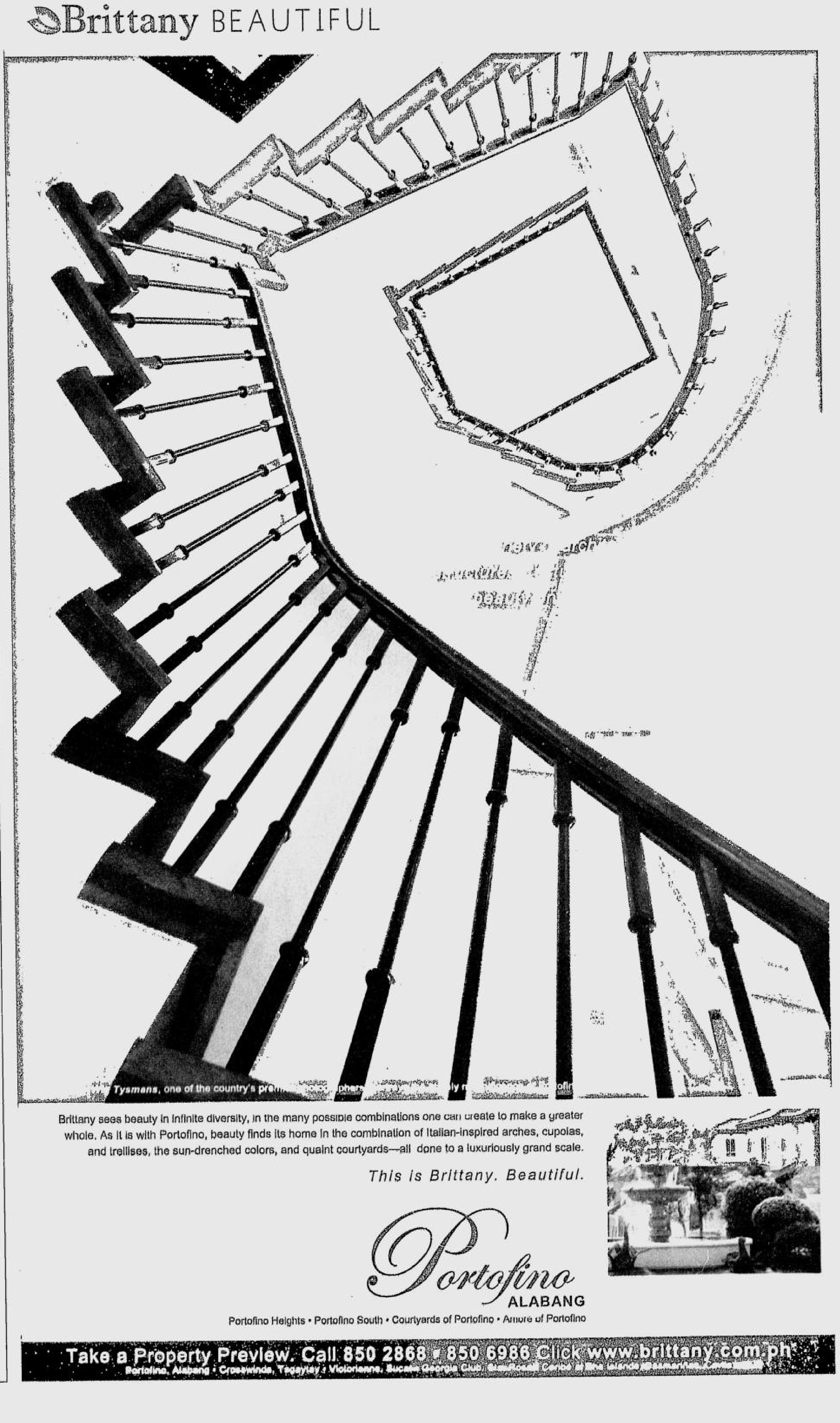
More quotable quotes from the MAP power points: "I cannot do everything, but I can still do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."—Hellen Keller

"Optimists see tough situations as temporary. Pessimists as permanent."

"Carry positive conversations with yourself."

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 896-3208.

EVELYN R. Singson, president of MAP.



Brittany BEAUTIFUL

Tysmans, one of the country's pre[illegible]

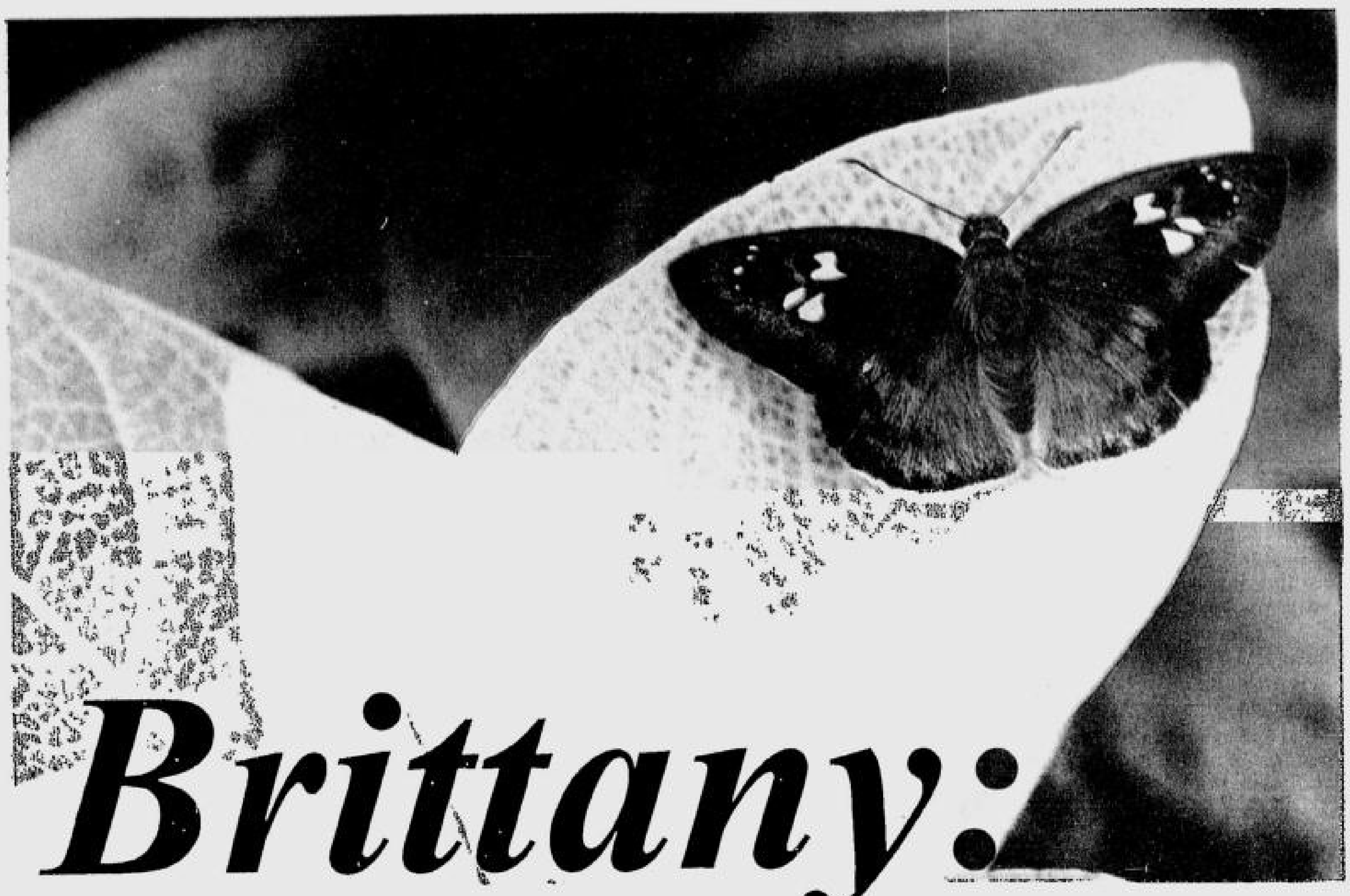
Brittany sees beauty in infinite diversity, in the many possible combinations one can create to make a greater whole. As it is with Portofino, beauty finds its home in the combination of Italian-inspired arches, cupolas, and trellises, the sun-drenched colors, and quaint courtyards—all done to a luxuriously grand scale.

This is Brittany. Beautiful.

Portofino
ALABANG

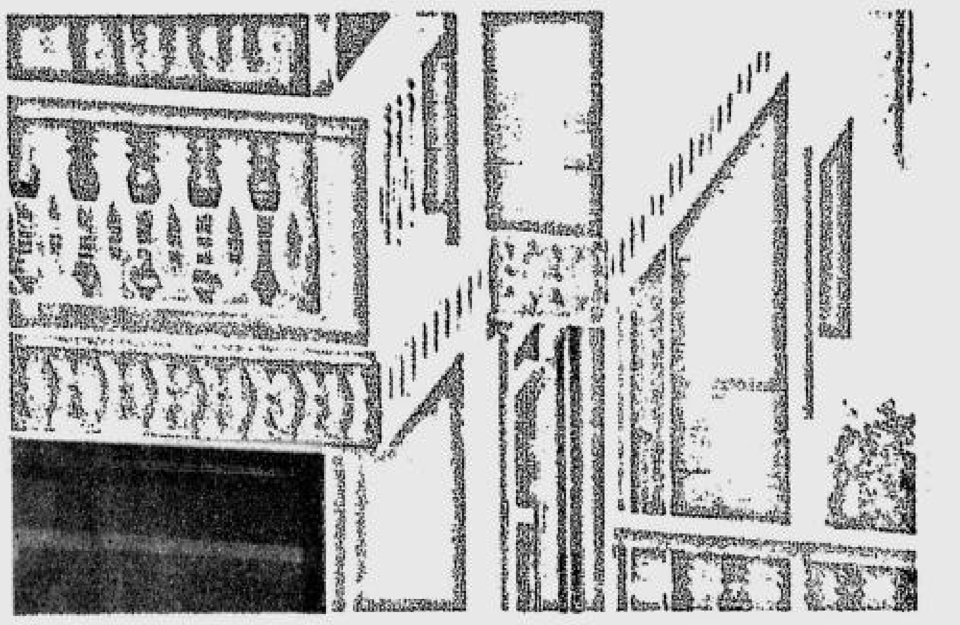
Portofino Heights • Portofino South • Courtyards of Portofino • Amore of Portofino

Take a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 • 850 6986 Click www.brittany.com.ph
Portofino, Alabang • Crosswinds, Tagaytay • Viollerine, Sucat • Georgia Club, [illegible]



Brittany:

Through A Lens, Beautifully



Staying true to its maverick nature, Brittany makes a ground-breaking move by harnessing the diverse talents of 5 of the most accomplished photographers to portray its diverse developments.

An activity never before attempted by any property developer, the 5 photographers were chosen for the values of beauty shared with Brittany-the attention to detail, the sense for symmetry and the balance between style and substance, and an open-minded appreciation for the diversity of beauty.

The 5 photographers were tasked to help communicate Brittany's core beliefs in creating its properties: the value for the beauty of life. Beauty in all its forms, after all, is in everything, in every aspect of life.

A virtual all star cast, the photographers bring to the table diverse specializations in their craft. Bien Bautista is an accomplished advertising and conceptual photographer. Jun de Leon is known as an image maker. George Tapan is the foremost travel photographer. Wig Tysmans is an expert portraitist and art photographer. Romy Vitug is a master at photojournalism and cinematography.

Bien Bautista: An artistic take on the charm of Brittany Bay

Bien Bautista was struck by the pleasantly surprising, calming silence at Brittany Bay, given its location right next to SLEX in Sucat. This relaxed impression was one of the feelings he wanted to convey in his photographs. With a patience honed by years of firing away in advertising, Bien waited for the right moments, the right atmospheric and lighting conditions before taking his shots.

The result was a set of photos that captures the San Francisco-inspired streetscape of Victorianne in all its quiet yet stately colorful glory and homes that are dramatically quiet yet charming.

Jun de Leon: image maker gives Georgia Club star treatment

The star development alongside SLEX in Sta. Rosa, the American southern-inspired Georgia Club was approached by Jun de Leon as if the property were a star personality, one whose beauty is readily seen in the details.

Scouting around and taking his keen eye for such details, Jun trained his lens on Georgia Club's rich environment. Jun framed the full grown trees, the thick shrubbery and abundant gardens in lighting conditions reminiscent of grand mansion grounds. The images communicate a depth of mood in the spirit of colonial Georgia in the U.S.A.

George Tapan: creating a travelogue for Crosswinds

A Swiss-inspired, quiet, wind-blown, pine tree estate set on the rolling hills of Tagaytay, Crosswinds was the ideal subject for travel photographer George Tapan.

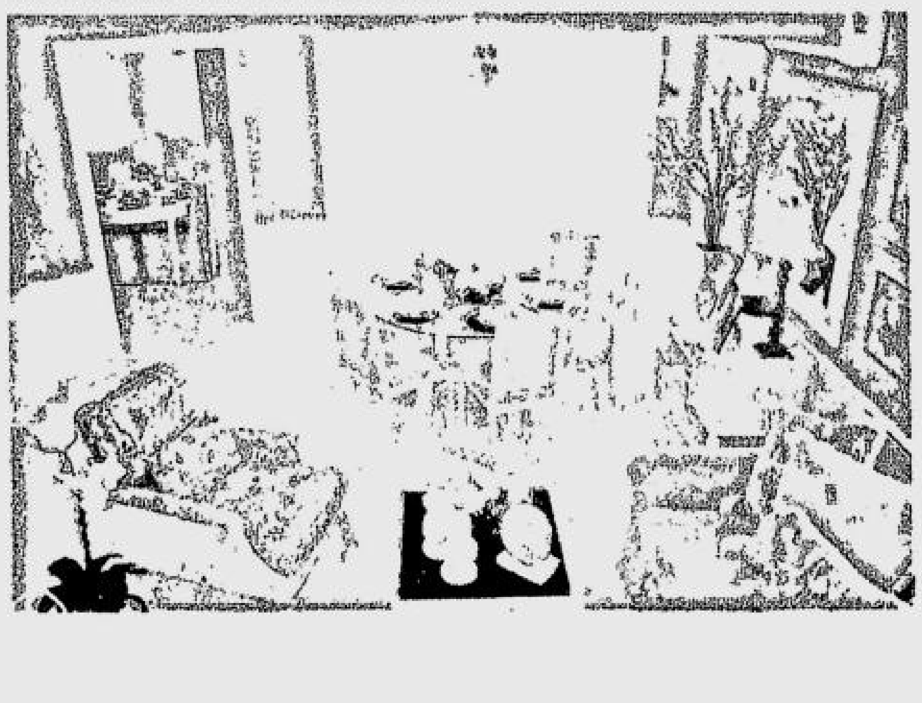
Having been in Switzerland, George felt the same atmosphere in Crosswinds with its chalet-like homes, the weather and the hilly topography. To George, it was immediately apparent where one finds beauty in Crosswinds: in the picturesque landscape.

In his images, George paints Crosswinds' landscape as a vast, calm expanse where skies and mountains meet in harmony. Homes blend with the surrounding pine trees and hillsides. Colors are soothing, with a cooling ambience. All together, the photographs identify everything that makes Crosswinds such an attraction as a Swiss haven, a second home.

Wig Tysmans: Portraitist focuses on passion for Portofino

A master portraitist, Wig Tysmans focused on the distinguishing character of Portofino, just as he would when portraying a person. For Wig, this was the passion-evoking Old World Italian architecture and the grand magnificence of both the homes and the landscape of Portofino.

Wig caught on his camera the beauty of Portofino's Italian-inspired courtyard homes, the indoor courtyards, the luxurious interiors, and the ornate fountains and rich gardens. The collection is a master's portrayal of masterpiece homes.



Romy Vitug: A cinematographic eye on Caribé

Veteran photojournalist and feature film cinematographer Romy Vitug took his uncanny eye for beauty on the Caribbean-Floridian development, Caribé.

Immediately, his attention focused on the lively colors from the abundance of flower gardens, the vast grassland and the sun-drenched atmosphere. His snapshots produced a reel of images projecting Caribé as an expansive tropical paradise, framed by lush greenery, accented by flowers, rendered in a palette of brilliant hues.

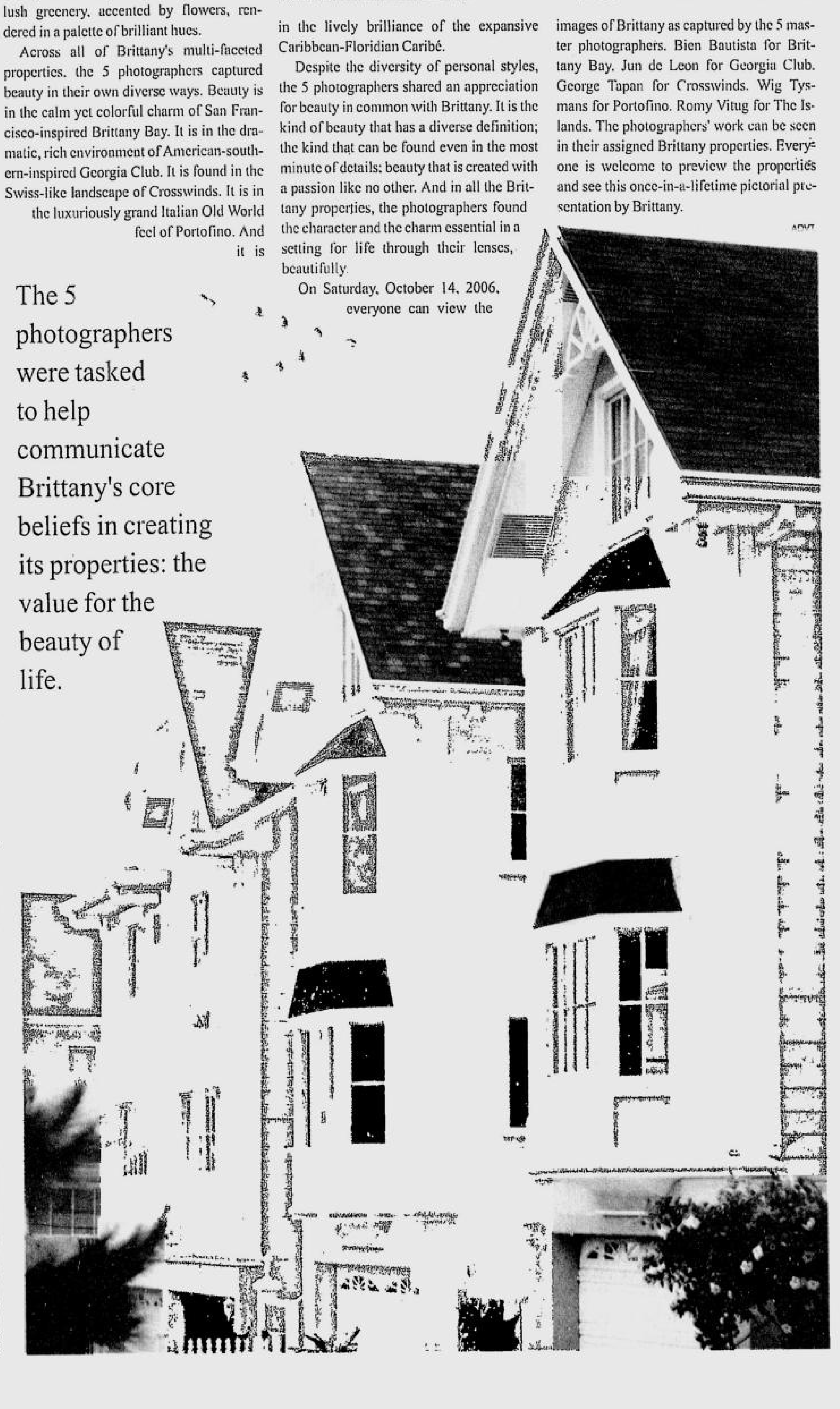
Across all of Brittany's multi-faceted properties, the 5 photographers captured beauty in their own diverse ways. Beauty is in the calm yet colorful charm of San Francisco-inspired Brittany Bay. It is in the dramatic, rich environment of American-southern-inspired Georgia Club. It is found in the Swiss-like landscape of Crosswinds. It is in the luxuriously grand Italian Old World feel of Portofino. And it is in the lively brilliance of the expansive Caribbean-Floridian Caribé.

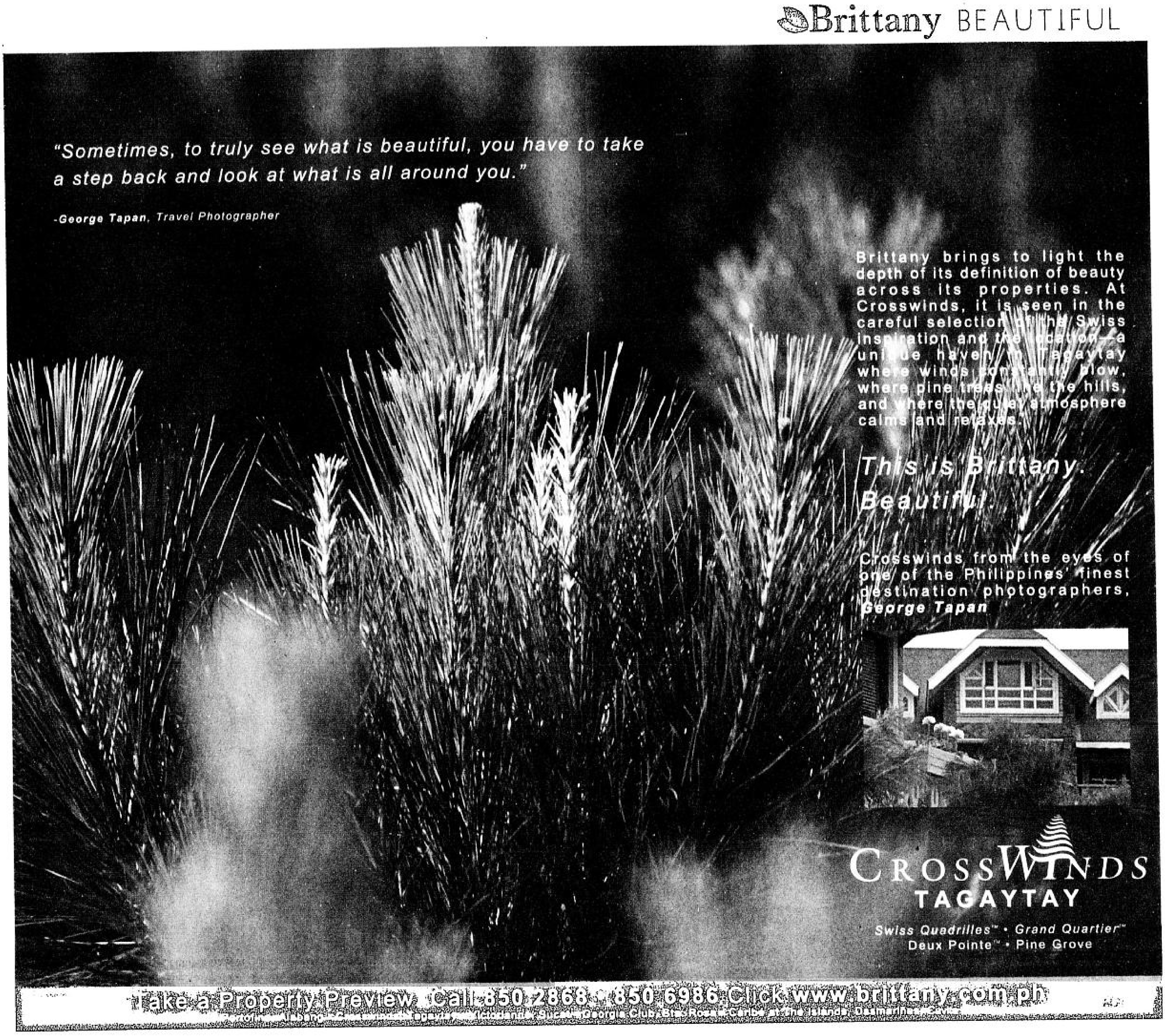
Despite the diversity of personal styles, the 5 photographers shared an appreciation for beauty in common with Brittany. It is the kind of beauty that has a diverse definition; the kind that can be found even in the most minute of details; beauty that is created with a passion like no other. And in all the Brittany properties, the photographers found the character and the charm essential in a setting for life through their lenses, beautifully.

On Saturday, October 14, 2006, everyone can view the images of Brittany as captured by the 5 master photographers. Bien Bautista for Brittany Bay. Jun de Leon for Georgia Club. George Tapan for Crosswinds. Wig Tysmans for Portofino. Romy Vitug for The Islands. The photographers' work can be seen in their assigned Brittany properties. Everyone is welcome to preview the properties and see this once-in-a-lifetime pictorial presentation by Brittany.

ADVT

> The 5 photographers were tasked to help communicate Brittany's core beliefs in creating its properties: the value for the beauty of life.




Brittany BEAUTIFUL

"Sometimes, to truly see what is beautiful, you have to take a step back and look at what is all around you."

-George Tapan, Travel Photographer

Brittany brings to light the depth of its definition of beauty across its properties. At Crosswinds, it is seen in the careful selection of the Swiss inspiration and the location—a unique haven in Tagaytay where winds constantly blow, where pine trees line the hills, and where the quiet atmosphere calms and relaxes.

This is Brittany. Beautiful.

Crosswinds from the eyes of one of the Philippines' finest destination photographers, ***George Tapan***

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'Travel Time' marks 20th year

By Nestor U. Torre

OCTOBER 2006 IS A landmark month for TV host-producer Susan Calo Medina, because it marks the 20th anniversary of her popular "Travel Time" show.

Special shows

Yes, Philippine TV's pioneering travel program has been telecasting for two decades now, and Susan is marking the anniversary with several special shows.

Recently, we watched one of them, on the show's "firsts," and were impressed to see that Susan's program has indeed been a pioneer in the TV travel field in a number of significant ways:

It introduced viewers and travelers to the scenic and surfing wonders of Siargao in Surigao, and the beauty of Bohol *beyond* its "signature" Chocolate Hills. Susan's show dwelt lovingly on Bohol's old churches, resorts and laidback lifestyle.

Palawan in another area of the country that "Travel Time" helped open up to tourists and armchair "travelers" alike. The program took viewers to Honda Bay, the island group's coastal area, its underground river, and its forests, with their unique wildlife.

Next trip was to Zambales, where then undiscovered visual delights awaited the adventurous tourist. Mountain-climbing was a special activity that made the trip unique.

The show opened up other previously recondite parts of Luzon by going on an extensive road trip that bisected the country's largest island.

Among other delights, the road trip took viewers into a series of caves, underground cathedrals that awed the eye and challenged the spelunking spirit of viewers. As a bonus, a kayaking adventure was also tucked into the trip.

Visual homage

The program then paid visual homage to the country's loveliest churches—in Paoay, Miag-ao, Carcar, Siquijor, Jimenez, Baclayon, etc.

Best of all, "Travel Time" took viewers to far-off Batanes, with its great vistas and positively in-your-face encounters with the force and beauty of nature.

From time to time, the show left for foreign shores, and its coverage of the sights and culture in places like Myanmar and Syria further extended viewers' travel and aesthetic horizons.

So, after 20 eventful, pioneering years, is Susan raring to hang up her sneakers and prop her feet up on a comfy cushion? No, there's enough wanderlust left in her soul to keep her on the move for another decade—and longer!

Ever-youthful disposition

To underscore the show's ever-youthful disposition, Susan's co-host on her "Travel Time Firsts" episode was JC Cuadrado—who, like the show itself, is only 20 years old.

—A perfect reminder that travel *does* keep you young and active, both physically and psychically. Which is why we should make time for travel—and "Travel Time"—*all* the time (the show is telecast Mondays on Studio 23 at 11:15 p.m.).

MEDINA. Enough wanderlust left in her soul for at least another decade of travels on TV!

Fox and Walden Media team up to release family films

LOS ANGELES—MOVIE STUDIO 20th Century Fox and Walden Media, the company behind "The Chronicles of Narnia" films, have formed a joint venture to produce and market family-friendly films, the companies announced.

This move gives Walden, which has been producing films with a number of studios, a permanent home for future projects, while giving Fox the means to expand its reach into the lucrative family entertainment sector.

Rival studios

Walden, which is owned by billionaire Philip Anschutz, will remain an independent entity under the deal with its own production staff.

Current projects under development with rival studios, including Walt Disney, Paramount Pictures and New Line, will remain in place.

The new, as yet unnamed joint venture, will market and promote films generally rated "G" and "PG," including movies that will be contributed to the venture by both Walden and Fox.

As part of the deal, Fox will have first-look rights at future projects from Bristol Bay Productions, Walden Media's sister company. Bristol Bay's past projects include 2004's "Ray" and 2005's "Sahara."

Fox has been focusing on the family audience once owned almost exclusively by Disney. Fox has been releasing more animated films, such as "Ice Age."

The studio also distributed the home video of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and, last year, launched a website to target Christian and family films directly to a religious audience.

"'G' and 'PG'-rated pictures make up 10 percent of films released, but they dominate the marketplace with almost 30 percent of the gross," Fox Film Entertainment co-chair and chief executives Jim Gianopulos and Tom Rothman said in a statement. "It's a great business to be in, and this venture is a great fit between our two companies."

Last year, after the success of "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," which was released by Disney, Walden started a book publishing unit, and began to explore a potential partnership with a studio.

New label

The new label already has a number of films under development, including "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium," starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman, and "City of Ember," based on Jeanne DuPrau's novel and produced by Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman.

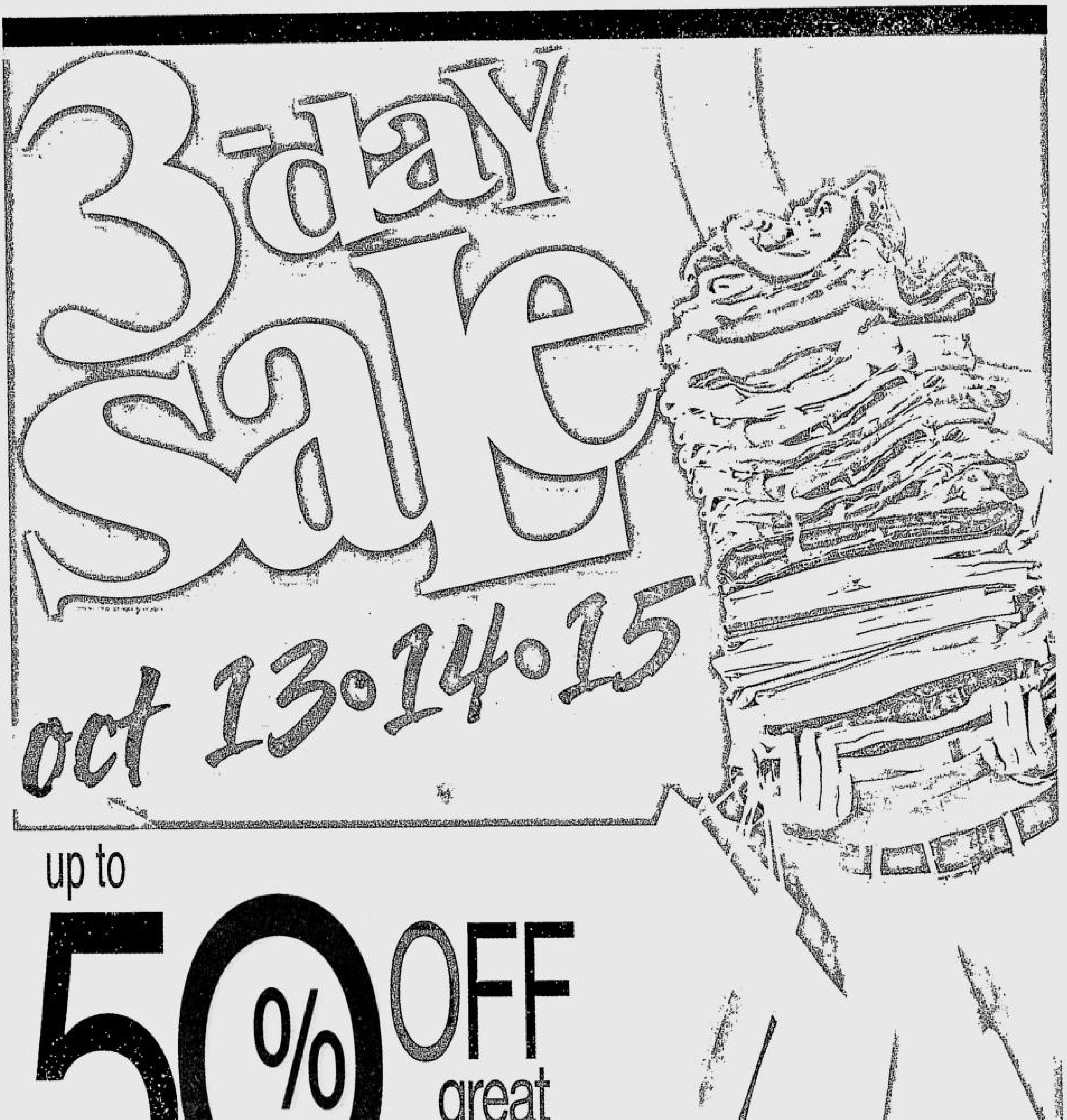
Walden has started work on a sequel called "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," which is based on the third book in the C.S. Lewis series. *AP*

"THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA" AND "ICE AGE." Good business.

From Baguio to Manila to Davao...

Our Biggest Sale of the month!

Bag those great finds at greater savings during the simultaneous 3-Day Sale on October 13, 14 and 15 at SM Megamall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Baguio, SM City Batangas, SM City Iloilo and SM City Davao. Great selections mallwide are tagged at up to 50% off. Merchandise on sale include new arrivals on apparel and fashion accessories, holiday decor, home and office furnishings, baby essentials, sports gear and many more.



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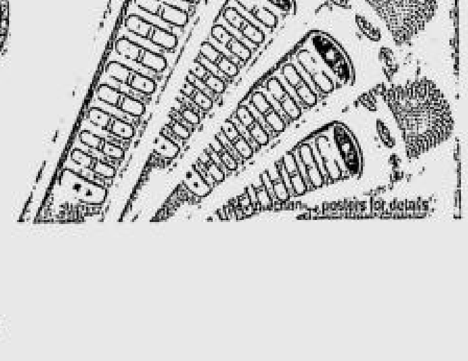

WOW! Prizes!

A total of 120 Wow Magic Sing units *(20 units per mall)* are at stake in the 3-Day Sale raffle event.

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase *(cash or charge)* from SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or from any participating mall establishment *(food and non-food)*, entitles customer to one (1) raffle coupon.

More chances to Win!

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Customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every single purchase of four (4) cinema tickets.

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Watch out for the **Philippine Idol simul-telecast at The Megastrip**, Bldg. A on October 14, 7pm onwards

More for neighborhood shoppers at

SM City Bacoor

A favorite shopping destination of students and OFW families who reside in subdivisions in the vicinity of the mall. SM City Bacoor offers shoppers value-plus buys on apparel, fashion, accessories, home furnishings, baby essentials, and more.

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Visit SM City Batangas Department Store, the largest department store this side of town with its 20,000 sqm area that offers everything you need. Make that early Christmas shopping to enjoy good buys and avoid the holiday rush!

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Joseph Bitangcol Mall Show
3rd Floor, Events Center

October 14 / 3pm
Kyla "Beautiful Days" Album Promo Tour
3rd Floor, Events Center

October 15 / 4pm
True Faith "Stray to be Found"
Album Promo Tour
3rd Floor, Events Center

Cool buys at

SM City Baguio

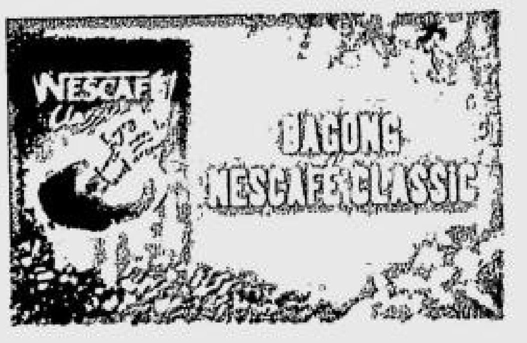
Lots of exciting perks and cool finds are in store for shoppers during the 3-day sale event. The mall also offers a picturesque setting for a variety of pleasurable dining options.

A winning weekend at

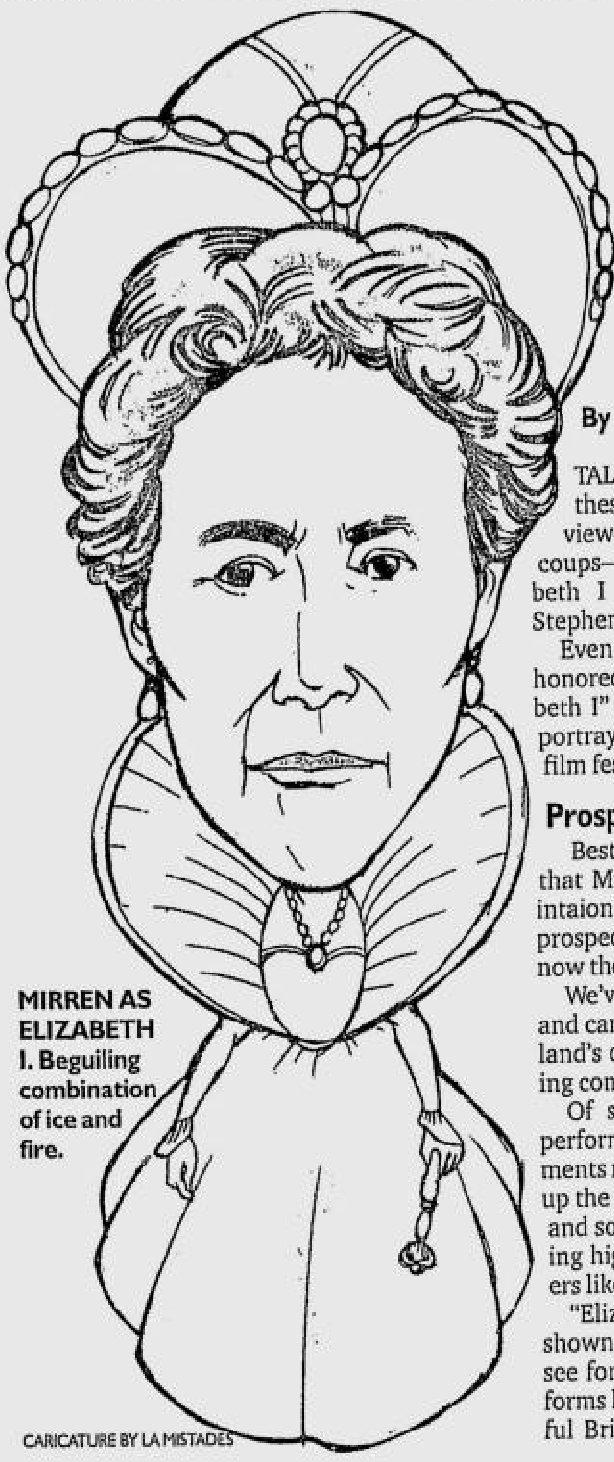
SM City Davao

Shop during the October 13,14 and 15 weekend sale and get the chance to be one of the six winners in the daily draw held every 10pm at the ground floor of the Atrium.

BAGONG AROMA AT LASA
NEW NESCAFÉ Classic


NESCAFÉ Classic
BAGONG NESCAFE CLASSIC

One-two thespic punch from Helen Mirren



MIRREN AS ELIZABETH I. Beguiling combination of ice and fire.

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

By Nestor U. Torre

TALK ABOUT SEEING DOUBLE, British thespic icon Helen Mirren has excited viewers with her unique twin acting coups—this year, she's playing Queen Elizabeth I on television *and* Elizabeth II in Stephen Frear's film, "The Queen."

Even better, both performances have been honored with awards—an Emmy for "Elizabeth I" and a best actress plum for Mirren's portrayal of Elizabeth II at this year's Venice film fest.

Prospect

Best of all, film industry observers believe that Mirren is a shoo-in for at least a nomintaion in the 2006 Oscars. What a delicious prospect for 61-year-old Dame Helen, who's now the toast of the big and small screens.

We've taken a long peek at "Elizabeth I" and can report that Mirren's portrayal of England's controversial Virgin Queen is a beguiling combination of ice and fire.

Of such textured and three-dimensional performances are memorable thespic moments made. It's easy to play it cold, or to heat up the screen—but, to do both in alternation, and sometimes in the same scene, is a daunting high-wire act that only fearless performers like Mirren can pull off.

"Elizabeth I" is a miniseries that's being shown on the Hallmark Channel. Catch it and see for yourself how Mirren creatively transforms herself into the complex and all-powerful British monarch who continues to fascinate millions to this day.

Tragic death

Meanwhile, in Frear's "The Queen," the current Queen Elizabeth is depicted at the time almost a decade ago when Princess Diana's tragic death prompted the world to mourn—and some people to criticize the royal family for being so aloof and unmoved.

Mirren's portrayal of Elizabeth II is praised for its being "dignified, intelligent and possessed of dry wit." The film's dramatic fulcrum is the royals' inability to anticipate how emotionally the world would respond to Diana's passing.

Elizabeth was also at the losing end of comparisons with Diana, who was dubbed the nation's "Queen of Hearts."

More sensitive

And she was also unfairly compared to Prime Minister Tony Blair, wo was perceived to be more sensitive to the general public's grief over Diana's shocking death. Once again, it didn't help when Blair named Diana "the people's princess."

But, Queen Elizabeth eventually survived that challenge to her popularity, and remains one of the world's most admired monarchs. And Mirren's portrayal is credited with capturing the British queen's deft combination of authority and pragmatism—the stuff of which royal survivors are made!

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Two music videos fuse rock and soul

By Rica Arevalo

UP DHARMA DOWN is an indie band composed of Armi Millare (keyboards, vocals, rhythm guitars), Ean Mayor (drums, human turntables), Carlos Tañada (lead guitars) and Paul Yap (bass). The group's latest video, "Oo" is a distinctively soothing fusion.

The four artists fuse their diverse tastes in combining acid jazz, rock, neo-soul and electronic music. Director R. A. Rivera shoots the band's performance in a recording studio and frames it in a a retro period that features a young American girl's coming-of-age experience and her secret "crush" on a much older guy.

Pleasing

But, it is production designer Mads Adrias who makes the video pleasing to the eyes. The look of "Oo" turns back time without trying

TWO/ F4

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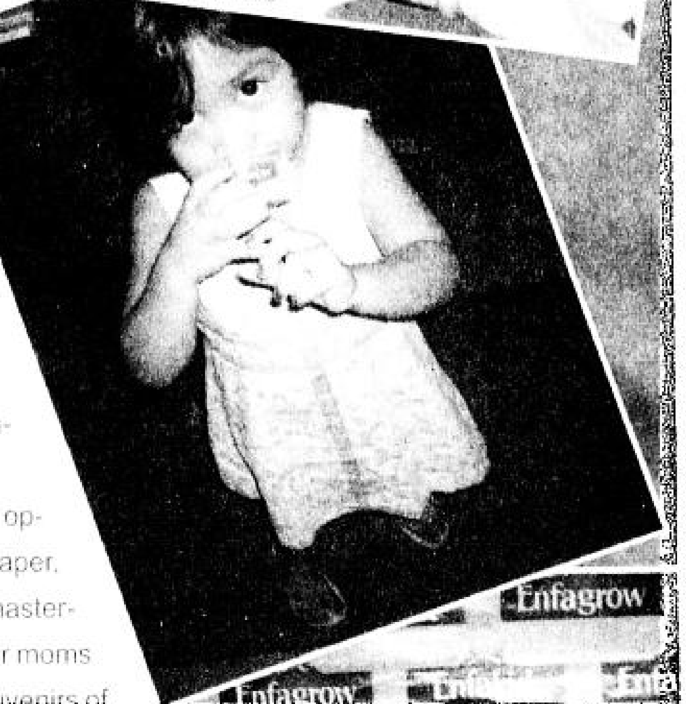


When a mom gives her best, she feels especially rewarded when her child reciprocates through creative, ingenious expressions of love.

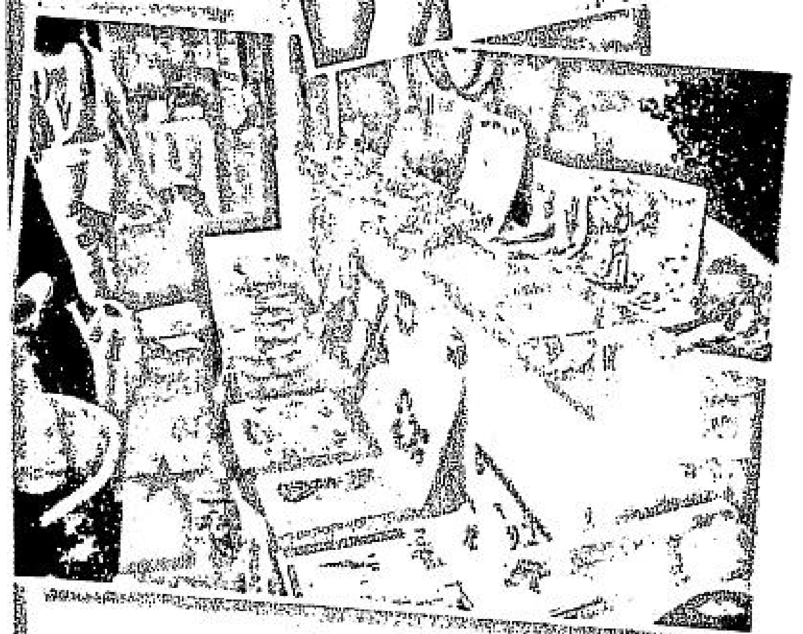
The recent Enfagrow and Enfakid Affections Fair paid tribute to such moms and their kids of 1 to 6 years old by providing them with a venue full of fun activities and a heartwarming experience they could share together. The day-long event took place on September 30th and was held at the cinema lobby of Glorietta 4 in Makati.

An Origami booth and heARTS and Crafts Corner gave kids the opportunity to create works of art. Experimenting with colored paper, crayons, paint, and other materials, the kids presented their little masterpieces to their moms as tokens of love. The kids also posed with their moms in front of the Enfa Photo Wall and brought home the pictures as souvenirs of the event.

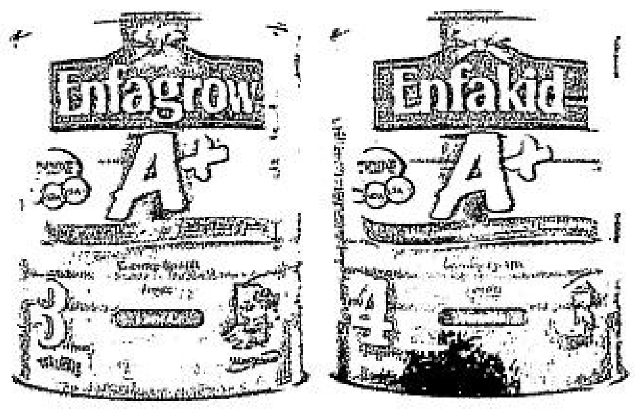
The main highlight of the day, however, was the Mommy & Me Mural, a freestanding wall filled with each mom's story about her smart and loving child. Moms gamely talked about these stories with the other participants while kids enthusiastically sang, danced and shared their own insights about their moms. Pictures and drawings added color to the mural, which is set to tour key areas of the country to inspire moms across the nation to create their own special moments with their kids.

Cups of new and improved Enfagrow A+ and Enfakid A+ were also given to the child participants to sample. Available in vanilla and chocolate variants, Enfagrow A+ and Enfakid A+ contain the brain-building blocks DHA and ARA and increased levels of Choline to help support brain development.

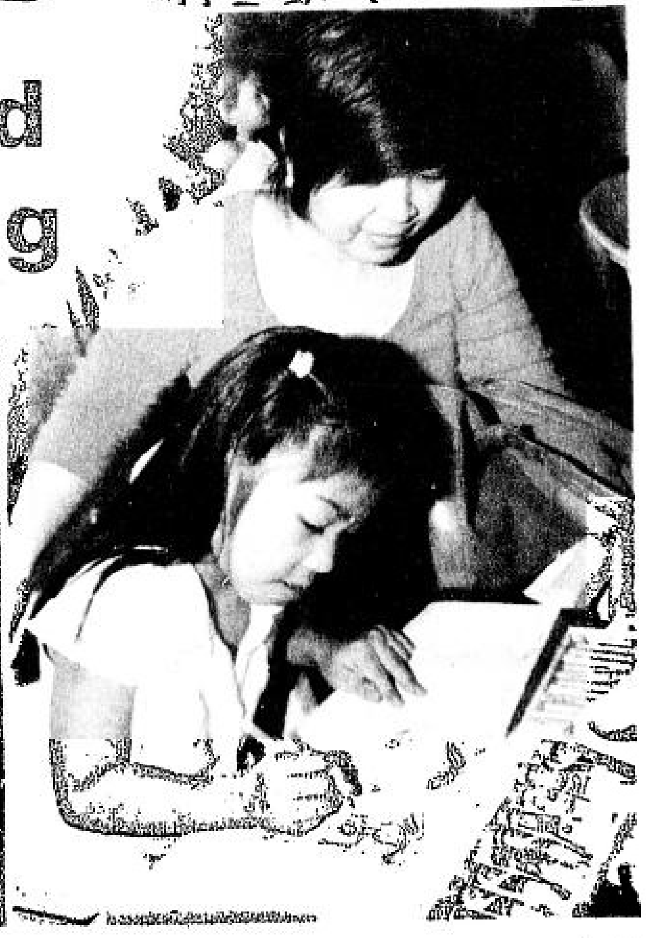
The Enfakid and Enfagrow Affections Fair was an event filled with creativity and love; and moms, kids, and even the rest of the family won't soon forget that special day they spent together.



with CHOLINE
DHA ARA SA



Because your child is worth everything



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Because your child is worth everything.

Ziyi Zhang reigns supreme in 'The Banquet'

By Noelani Torre

AT THE START OF THE NEW millennium, some film experts predicted that the 21st century would eventually be dominated by Asian films and filmmakers. Is that prediction coming to pass?

Well, partly. Some Asian directors like Ang Lee, John Woo, Mira Nair and Wong Kar-wai have been megging international hits, and a number of Asian action stars like Jackie Chan, Jet Li and Chow Yun-Fat have topbilled popular movies.

Latest epic

On the distaff side, the likes of Michelle Yeoh, Joan Chen and Gong Li have starred in international films. Of late, however, they've been sweetly upstaged by the younger and more popular Ziyi Zhang, who's now starring in her latest epic, "The Banquet."

ZHANG. One acting award after another.

What makes Ziyi such an exceptional comer? Some months ago, we caught a documentary on her early years in China's Central Drama Academy, and saw that, even a whole decade ago, she already evinced the beauty, talent and charisma that are so abundantly visible on movie screens today.

Determination

The archival footage shown in that documentary also bore witness to her determination and focused work ethic, qualities that have borne her in good stead during her stellar ascent in international cinema.

Now the most prominent Asian actress in contemporary movies, Ziyi made her acting debut in a small but significant film, "The Road Home," directed by the gifted Zhang Yimou. Ziyi did so well in her first starrer that she immediately won the One Hundred Flowers Best Actress Award in 1999.

The following year, Ziyi came into her own as an international star when she topbilled "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Her performance in that exciting epic won her citations from the Toronto Film Critics Association, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, and the IFP Independent Spirit Awards.

Mentor

Ziyi "went Hollywood" in "Rush Hour 2," co-starring in the hit comedy with Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. She then reunited with her mentor, Zhang Yimou, in "Hero" and "House of Flying Daggers," for which she won the Chinese government's Hua Biao Award for best actress.

One citation followed another as her performance in Wong Kar-wai's "2046" won her the Best Actress trophy at the Hong Kong Film Awards. She also copped a Golden Rooster best actress award for "Jasmine Woman" and a Chinese Film Media best actress award for "Purple Butterfly."

Title role

Most recently, Ziyi played the title role in her first English-language feature, "Memoirs of a Geisha," directed by Rob Marshall.

And, this month, Ziyi's latest starrer, "The Banquet," opens in Metro Manila. In Feng Xiaogang's epic, she portrays Empress Wan. She's beautiful and powerful, but she's unfulfilled in the royal boudoir, and thus harbors forbidden desires for her stepson.

Her first move is to protect herself, and she next protects the Crown Prince. But when she discovers that he can no longer be protected, she takes things into her own hands.

Ziyi was tapped to play the complex role due to her rare combination of beauty, acting talent and martial arts ability. —Another feather in her cinematic chapeau!

Two music...

From page F1

too hard.

The lyrics hit the listener bull's-eye:

"*Hindi mo lang alam, ako'y iyong nasaktan/O baka sakali ngang maisip mo naman/Puro siya na lang, sana'y ako naman/Hindi mo lang alam, ika'y minamasdan/Sana'y iyong mamalayan...Hindi mo lang alam/ Ako'y iyong nasaktan.*"

On the other hand, Sponge Cola's "Bitiw" was first heard on the television series, "Komiks: Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko." There's a new cut of the music video by Gorio Vicuna, an MTV director with extensive experience as animator and graphic designer in the United States. He is credited as one of the animators of the new feature, "Barnyard."

The "look" of the video is based on the band's CD album design. Hence, the flat two-dimensional background of the metropolis *vis-a-vis* the live three-dimensional band performance makes for a unique viewing experience.

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1 winner of a 3 Days, 2 Nights for Four w/ breakfast @ Pearl Farm, Davao
1 winner of Terapin Home Theater System
1 winner of Honda XRM110 Motorcycle

Deadline for Submission
Grand Draw Dec.5, 2006 closing hours

Raffle Draw
Dec. 17, 2006

Venue
SM Storyland Southmall

Nicolas Cage prays for peace and tolerance

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

WE FLEW TO BANGKOK recently to interview Academy Award-winning actor, Nicolas Cage ("Leaving Las Vegas," "Con-Air," "Moonstruck"), who was in the Thai capital to shoot "Time to Kill," the Hollywood remake of the Pang brothers' Toronto film fest-winning action drama, "Bangkok Dangerous."

"WORLD TRADE CENTER." Intimate stories of innocent people who didn't deserve the fate that befell them.

Collapsed towers

He was also there to promote his latest film with Oliver Stone, "World Trade Center," which focuses on the two Port Authority police officers, John McLoughlin (played by Cage) and Will Jimeno (Michael Peña), who were trapped deep in the rubble of the collapsed towers after helping other victims.

Stone's movie is a curious albeit fresh addition to the fiercely provocative director's stunning oeuvre—"WTC" is as powerful as it is intimate—but, for the actor, the experience of portraying a real-life hero is something that he treasures.

He recounted: "When I was approached for the role, I considered it an opportunity to use my ability as an actor to help encourage people who face overwhelming odds. It wasn't easy to play a real person who was still alive—I didn't want to embarrass him"

Personal questions

"As part of my research, I asked John very personal questions that weren't comfortable for him to discuss, but this insight into his psyche helped me thresh out his character—and helped me comprehend his will to survive. Remember, he was at the epicenter of the tragedy!"

Cage found the role daunting and challenging. But, the actor—who is referred to by director David Lynch as the "Jazz Musician of acting"—is known to resort to "unconventional" approaches to get into the heart of a role:

It is widely-known, for instance, that, at the height of his passion for Method acting, he ate a cockroach in 1989's "Vampire's Kiss." In "The Cotton Club" (1984), he smashed a street vendor's car to "achieve the sense of rage needed for his gangster character." Such dedication!

Political aspect

We were surprised to meet a soft-spoken, charmingly gracious actor, who circumvented our questions about the political aspect of his film. He explained, "What happened to the World Trade Center was terrible and tragic—it changed America and the world.

"But, the movie focuses more on the intimate stories of innocent people who didn't deserve the fate that befell them. I hope it doesn't happen again, because this magnitude of grief and suffering is something that you don't wish on anyone anywhere—regardless of political, religious or ideological belief. Our movie focuses on humanity more than politics. And I believe that war should *only* be used as a last resort!"

Cult classic

Cage seldom smiled, but he wasn't snooty. He did laugh heartily when we reminded him that it's been 24 years since he appeared in his film debut, the teen cult classic, "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," where he had a minute role. How does he keep his performances fresh after all these years? Does he still get excited?

He confessed: "To keep it fresh, I try not to get comfortable with acting. It doesn't always work, but I feel that when it does, it brings out something vital and real for me and for other people. Believe me, I don't want to bore people, and I promise I'm not *ever* going to bore you! (*laughs*)"

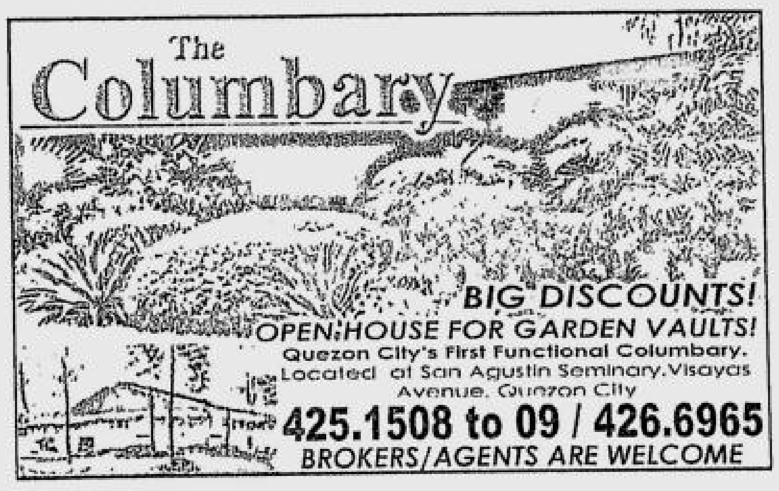
When we asked him if it wasn't difficult to work with Oliver Stone, he looked like he expected the question. He didn't mince words, though: "Oliver is constantly trying new things. He doesn't always succeed, but he makes an effort to do something unique every time—and I can relate to that! I admire people who take chances and are willing to get out of the box. What can be more boring than people who play it safe all the time?"

Lost opportunity

Indeed, Cage is not known to play it safe. Just recently, the 42-year-old, 6'1" actor even toyed with the idea of playing Kal-El, Clark Kent's Kryptonian name—and a name he christened his one-year-old son to Korean-American wife, Alice Kim, with—in Tim Burton's doomed "Superman" project. (Nicolas, in fact, did fittings for the costume!) To make up for the "super" lost opportunity, he will next be seen donning a costume as the title character in "Ghost Rider."

At the moment, though, Cage's mind is into promoting peace, tolerance and diversity. He reiterated, "I consider myself Asian, because of my son. Film is a medium that allows us to experience one another, to imbibe and learn from different cultures—and hopefully, to understand and accept diversity."

CAGE. Loves to take chances.
CARICATURE BY L. A. MISTADES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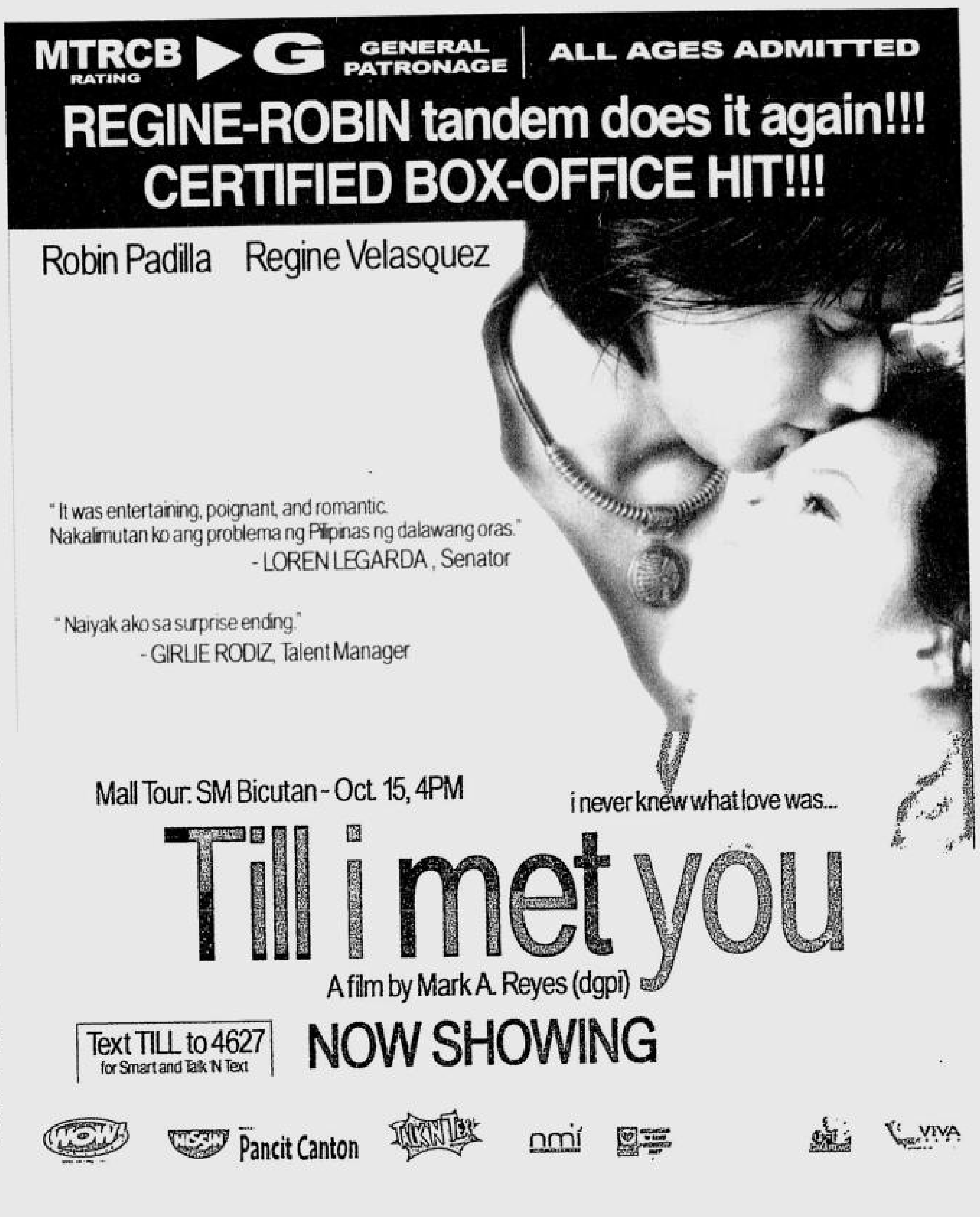
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REGINE-ROBIN tandem does it again!!!
CERTIFIED BOX-OFFICE HIT!!!
Robin Padilla Regine Velasquez
"It was entertaining, poignant, and romantic.
Nakalimutan ko ang problema ng Pilipinas ng dalawang oras."
- LOREN LEGARDA, Senator
"Naiyak ako sa surprise ending."
- GIRLIE RODIZ, Talent Manager
Mall Tour: SM Bicutan - Oct. 15, 4PM
i never knew what love was...
Till i met you
A film by Mark A. Reyes (dgpi)
Text TILL to 4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text
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Pancit Canton
VIVA

Dad, what kind of energy does an electron and a proton create when they fuse inside a vac---
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COMIC*Relief*

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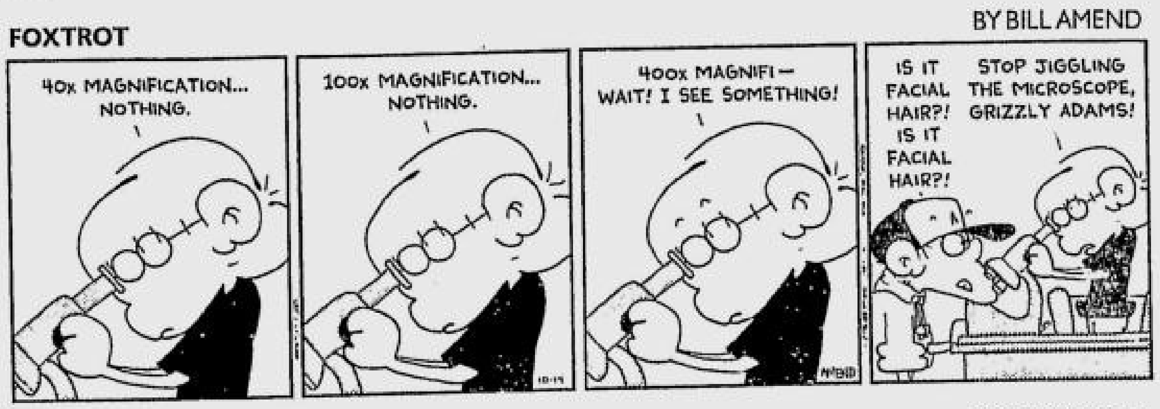
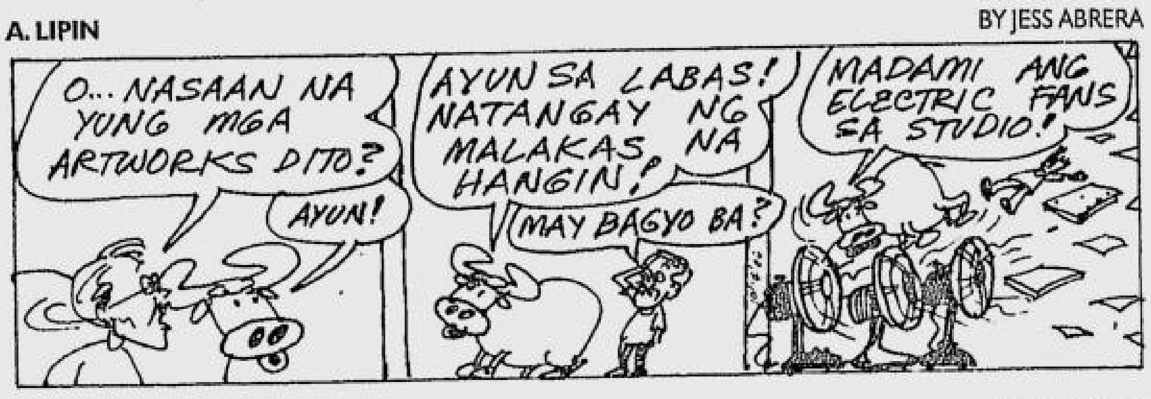
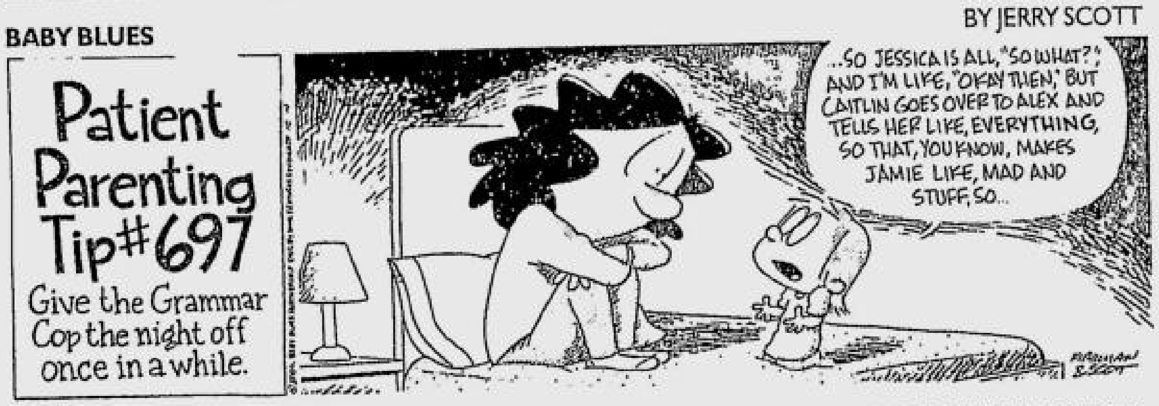
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


40x MAGNIFICATION... NOTHING.
100x MAGNIFICATION... NOTHING.
400x MAGNIFI— WAIT! I SEE SOMETHING!
IS IT FACIAL HAIR?! IS IT FACIAL HAIR?!
STOP JIGGLING THE MICROSCOPE, GRIZZLY ADAMS!

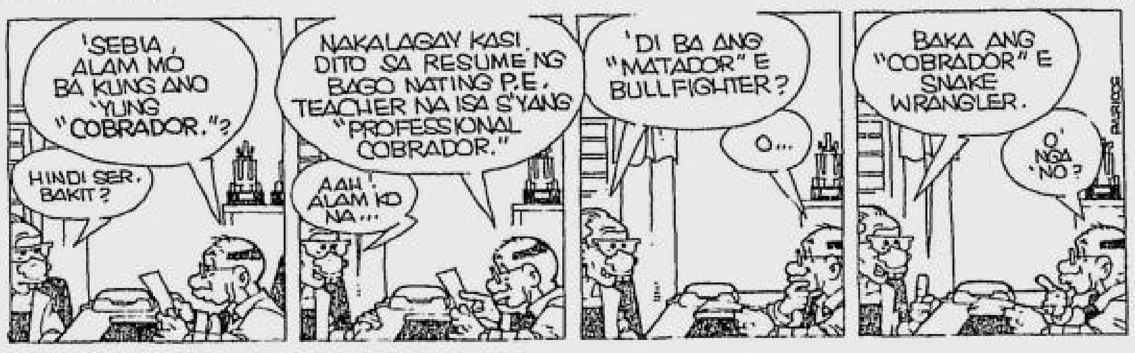
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


O... NASAAN NA YUNG MGA ARTWORKS DITO?
AYUN!
AYUN SA LABAS! NATANGAY NG MALAKAS NA HANGIN!
MAY BAGYO BA?
MADAMI ANG ELECTRIC FANS SA STUDIO!

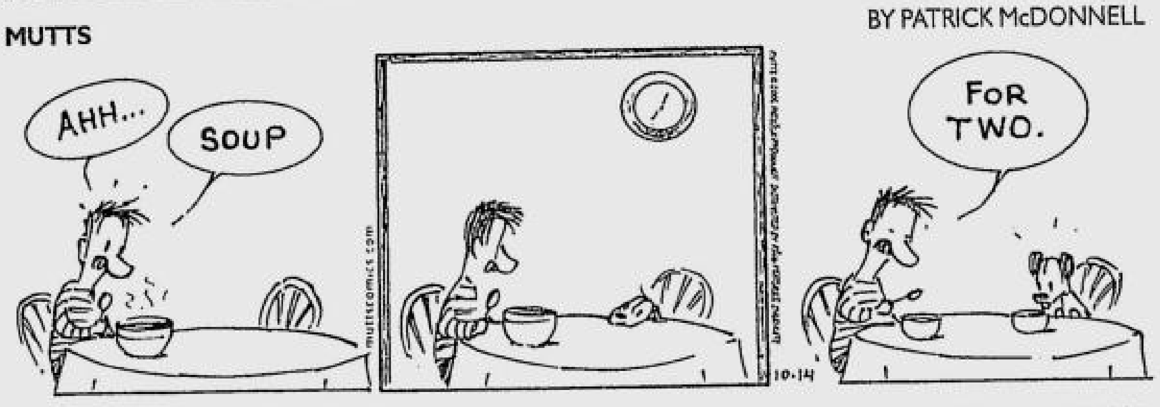
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


Patient Parenting Tip#697
Give the Grammar Cop the night off once in a while.
...SO JESSICA IS ALL, "SO WHAT?," AND I'M LIKE, "OKAY THEN," BUT CAITLIN GOES OVER TO ALEX AND TELLS HER LIKE, EVERYTHING, SO THAT, YOU KNOW, MAKES JAMIE LIKE, MAD AND STUFF, SO...

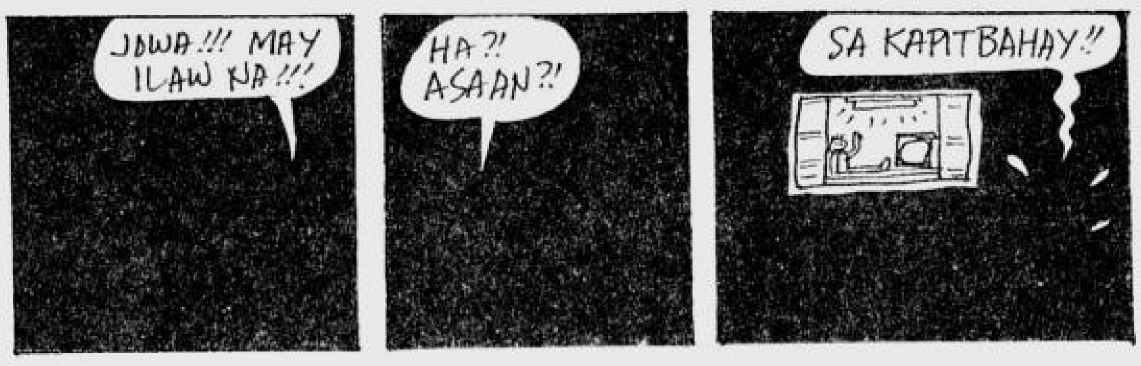
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


'SEBIA, ALAM MO BA KUNG ANO 'YUNG "COBRADOR."?
HINDI SER. BAKIT?
NAKALAGAY KASI DITO SA RESUME NG BAGO NATING P.E. TEACHER NA ISA S'YANG "PROFESSIONAL COBRADOR."
AAH! ALAM KO NA...
'DI BA ANG "MATADOR" E BULLFIGHTER?
O...
BAKA ANG "COBRADOR" E SNAKE WRANGLER.
O' NGA 'NO?

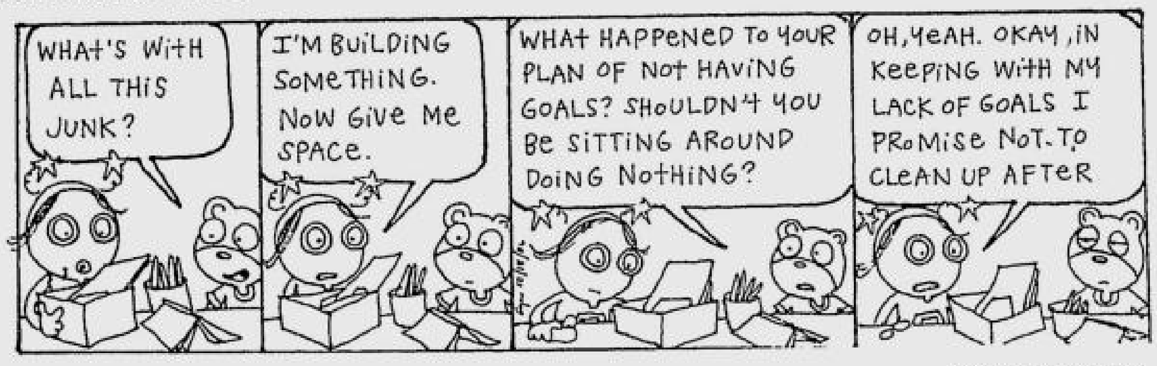
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH...
SOUP
FOR TWO.
mutscomics.com
10.14

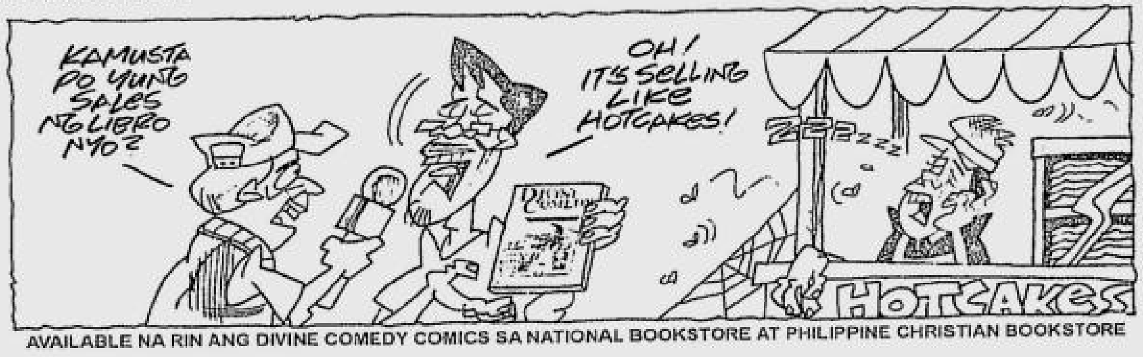
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA!!! MAY ILAW NA!!!
HA?! ASAAN?!
SA KAPITBAHAY!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

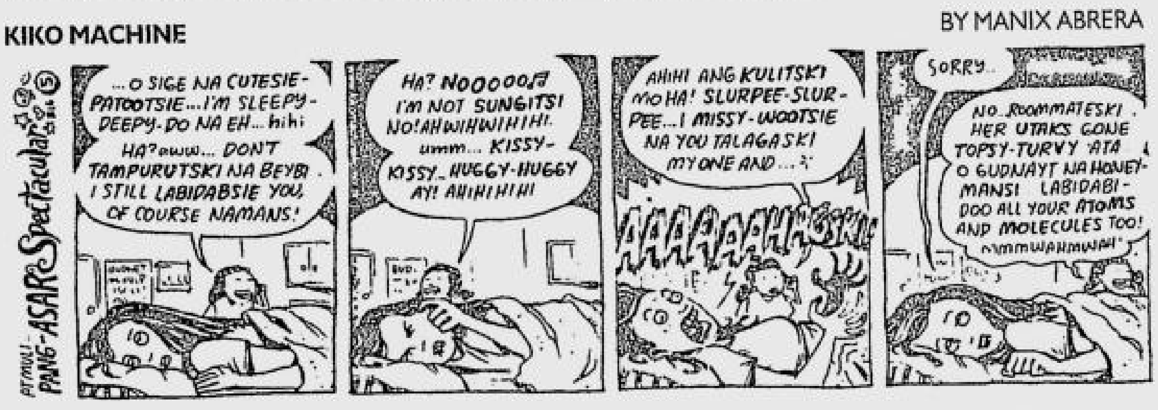

WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS JUNK?
I'M BUILDING SOMETHING. NOW GIVE ME SPACE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PLAN OF NOT HAVING GOALS? SHOULDN'T YOU BE SITTING AROUND DOING NOTHING?
OH, YEAH. OKAY, IN KEEPING WITH MY LACK OF GOALS I PROMISE NOT TO CLEAN UP AFTER

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

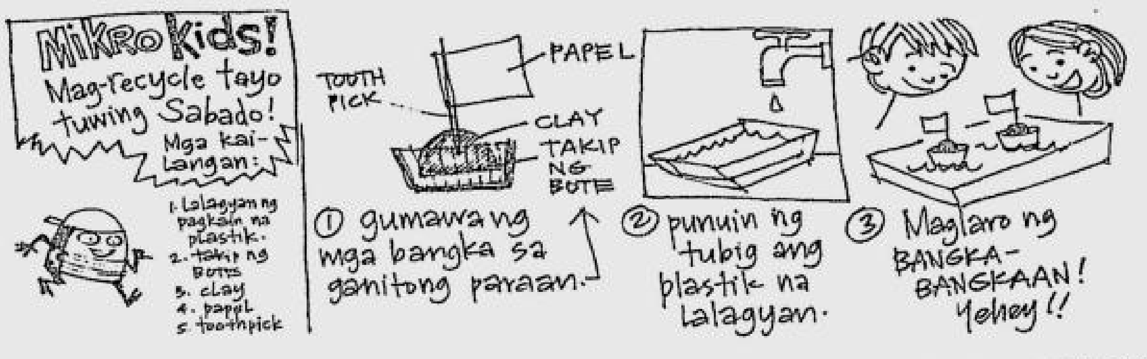

KAMUSTA PO YUNG SALES NG LIBRO NYO?
OH! IT'S SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES!
ZZZzzz
HOTCAKES

AVAILABLE NA RIN ANG DIVINE COMEDY COMICS SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE AT PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

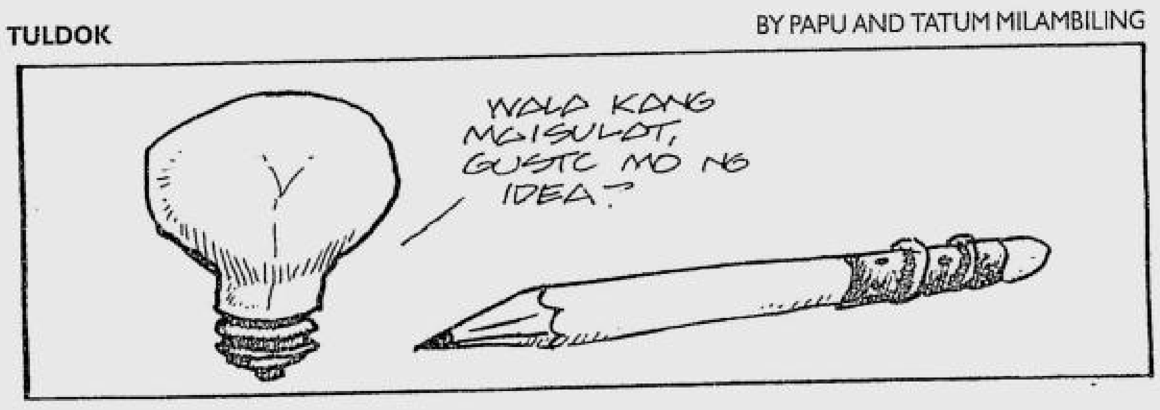
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


AT MULI! PANG-ASAR Spectacular
...O SIGE NA CUTESIE-PATOOTSIE...I'M SLEEPY-DEEPY-DO NA EH... hihi
HA? aww... DONT TAMPURUTSKI NA BEYBI. I STILL LABIDABSIE YOU, OF COURSE NAMANS!
HA? NOOOOO! I'M NOT SUNGITS! NO! AHWIHWIHIHI. umm... KISSY-KISSY... HUGGY-HUGGY AY! AHIHIHIHI
AHIHI ANG KULITSKI MO HA! SLURPEE-SLURPEE...I MISSY-WOOTSIE NA YOU TALAGASKI MY ONE AND...
AAAAAAHHSKI!
SORRY..
NO..ROOMMATESKI. HER UTAKS GONE TOPSY-TURVY 'ATA. O GUDNAYT NA HONEY-MANS! LABIDABI-DOO ALL YOUR ATOMS AND MOLECULES TOO! mmmWAHMWAH!

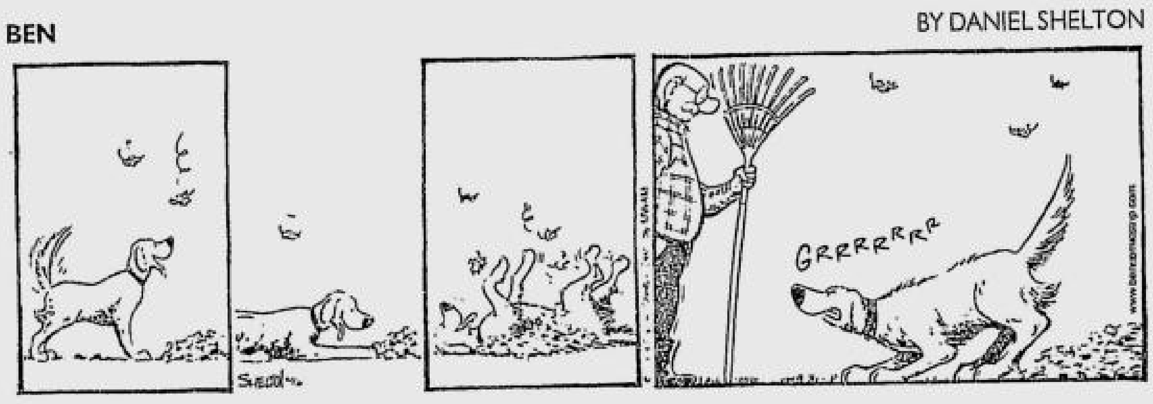
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRO Kids!
Mag-recycle tayo tuwing Sabado!
Mga kailangan:
1. Lalagyan ng pagkain na plastik.
2. takip ng bote
3. clay
4. papel
5. toothpick
TOOTH PICK
PAPEL
CLAY
TAKIP NG BOTE
① gumawa ng mga bangka sa ganitong paraan.
② punuin ng tubig ang plastik na lalagyan.
③ Maglaro ng BANGKA-BANGKAAN! Yehey!!

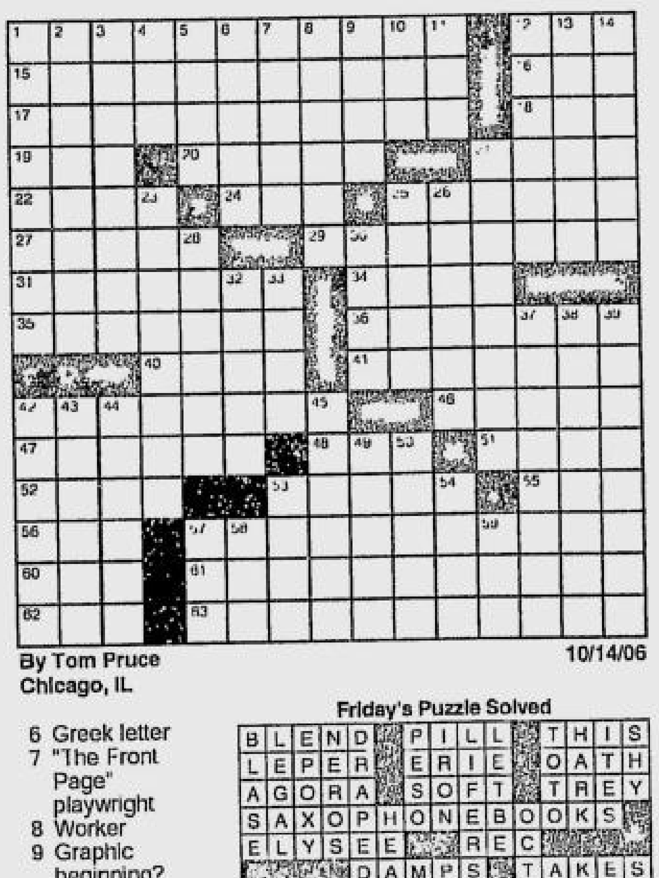
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WALA KANG MAISULAT, GUSTO MO NG IDEA?

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

10/14/06

ACROSS

1 Spoke first
12 Half a fly?
15 Sensible
16 Over the hill
17 Common knowledge
18 Tennis shot
19 Galley blade
20 Of a people: pref.
21 Ballesteros of golf
22 Collect ore
24 Goddess of folly
25 Less carefully created
27 South Bend eleven
29 Be off with you!
31 Sweet drinks
34 Chimney collection
35 Journalist Horace
36 "Bad Day at Black Rock" director
40 Cash advance
41 Dependent
42 Long-range shooters
46 Lexical meaning
47 Way out
48 4-stringed guitar
51 Sandberg of baseball
52 Claire and Balin
53 Idle and Ambler
55 __ de mer
56 No-good ending
57 Makes zero progress
60 French season
61 Big name in cosmetics
62 Legal thing
63 Spitting images

DOWN

1 In flower
2 Mr. Fixit
3 Too kind?
4 Howard or Norton
5 Otherwise
6 Greek letter
7 "The Front Page" playwright
8 Worker
9 Graphic beginning?
10 This or that French object
11 H. Ross Perot company
12 City on Lake Erie
13 Litterbug
14 Two-time Wimbledon champion
21 More hot and humid
23 Getty and Winwood
25 Twenty fins?
26 Dufy and Walsh
28 Glowing rings
30 Intl. power, once
32 Does pipe cleaning
33 "Auld Lang __"
37 Jovian satellite
38 Trapper
39 Pittsburgh team
42 "A Few Good Men" director
43 Start burning
44 Riker of "Star Trek: TNG"
45 Fostered
49 1946-52 home-run leader
50 Pathogenic bacteria
53 Vocalist James
54 Graceful dive
57 Dropout's cert.
58 Map dir.
59 Embrace

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	L	E	N	D		P	I	L	L		T	H	I	S
L	E	P	E	R		E	R	I	E		O	A	T	H
A	G	O	R	A		S	O	F	T		T	R	E	Y
S	A	X	O	P	H	O	N	E	B	O	O	K	S	
E	L	Y	S	E	E			R	E	C				
				D	A	M	P	S		T	A	K	E	S
S	O	M	E		D	O	I		H	E	R	N	I	A
T	R	O	M	B	O	N	E	S	E	T	T	E	R	S
A	C	E	T	E	N		T	E	E		S	E	E	S
B	A	S	S	I		H	A	N	D	R				
				N	C	O			E	A	G	L	E	T
	F	L	U	G	E	L	H	O	R	N	R	I	M	S
A	L	E	S		A	L	E	X		G	A	M	M	A
R	A	G	E		S	E	R	E		E	M	B	E	R
I	P	O	D		E	D	E	N		S	P	O	T	S

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10/14/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Others view you as calm and composed. This is because you seek the path of least resistance. You don't make scenes. You do your homework, and you always arrive well-prepared. You want stability in your family life. You adore theater, the arts and romance. Be prepared for major changes in the year ahead, perhaps as significant as what took place around 1997.
Birthdate of: Steve Coogan, actor; Usher, singer; Natalie Maines, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can accomplish a lot today by working with others. You can also use this same energy to work out any problems you have with partnerships and close friendships.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Because you have the ability to work long, hard hours today (you have unusual endurance and stamina), you can really accomplish a lot. Pick a tough job—you're up for it!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Physical sports will appeal to you today. You have a lot of energy! This same energy can be applied to fun, romance and working with children.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is the perfect day to do major repairs at home. In particular, focus on areas that house garbage and plumbing, and other dark, dirty places. Clean things up! Throw out what you don't need.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're unusually powerful and persuasive today. If you have to convince anybody of anything, you can do it! Discussions with siblings are intense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You will work very hard to earn money today. And you'll also work very hard to spend it! You want to use your money to make improvements around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have energy to burn today. Pick jobs that require stamina, endurance and concentration. You'll be surprised at how much you can accomplish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Whatever you do today, you will likely do it in secret. Others are not aware of what you are up to. You feel private and secretive about something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Group activities will be lively today! Physical sports will be appealing. You want to use your energy to improve something in some way. You can also direct the efforts of others very effectively

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ambition is very aroused today. You know what you want, and you're willing to go after it. No one can dissuade you from your intentions right now

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Work hard to complete travel plans or matters connected with education, publishing, the media and dealings with foreign countries. This is a good day to wrap these things up

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel very passionate about everything today, especially personal, intimate situations. Discussions about shared property can go well today. (You mean business!)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

							9	
				3	8			2
9	3	8						
	8				5			7
	4			2			5	
1			6				8	
						7	6	3
4			2	6				
	9							

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/14

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

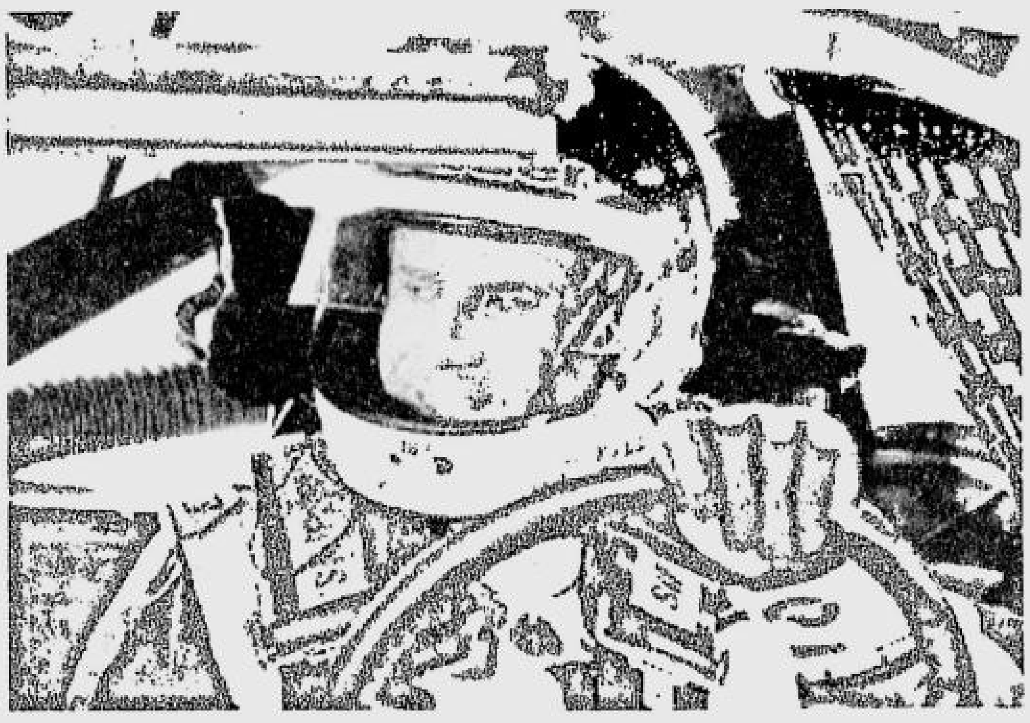
Answer to previous puzzle

6	3	7	8	9	5	1	2	4
4	1	8	6	3	2	5	9	7
9	2	5	4	1	7	6	3	8
8	5	4	9	2	1	7	6	3
7	9	1	3	8	6	4	5	2
3	6	2	5	7	4	8	1	9
5	8	6	2	4	3	9	7	1
2	7	9	1	5	8	3	4	6
1	4	3	7	6	9	2	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Rip-roaring moments in Ferrell's sports parody

By Noelani Torre


FERRELL. Plays a dimwitted, egotistical, but utterly sincere protagonist.

IT'S HARD TO COME UP WITH A SINGLE adjective to describe Will Ferrell's newest outing, "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby."

On one hand, this parody of sports movies in general, and car racing in particular, is dumb, crass and red-necked. On the other hand, it's also smart, sophisticated and absurd enough to show its bluer-than-blue roots.

Central to making it all work, of course, is lead star Ferrell who teams up once more with director Adam McKay after 2003's much-lauded "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy."

Trademark

Running on a similar track, "Talladega Nights" features a dimwitted, egotistical, but utterly sincere protagonist—something of a Ferrell trademark—whose hot-air-filled bubble is just begging to be pricked.

Ricky Bobby (Ferrell) was born in the backseat of a speeding car. His first words were, "I wanna go fast," and when his dissolute racer father (deftly played by Gary Cole) tells him, "If you ain't first, you're last," he takes it as gospel truth.

Soon, he's become Nascar's No. 1 man, possessing all the trappings of a champion race car driver's life—riches and real estate, a photo-op-hungry, sexy wife (Leslie Bibb), two hellion sons, a devoted good ol' boy buddy (John C. Reilly), and endless product endorsements, ranging from Wonder Bread to Nascar's official sanitary pad.

Everything changes, however, when another champion driver, Jean Girard (British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen *aka* Ali G), enters the scene. Girard is everything Bobby isn't: He's French, urbane, and gay—in short, the embodiment of everything that your stereotypical good ol' boy fears. While racing, he reads Camus' "L'Étranger" behind the wheel and sips a demitasse of macchiato!

Nervous breakdown

Girard beats Bobby up in the bar, and likewise trounces him on the racetrack. Our good ol' boy gets a nervous breakdown. Emerging from his crushed-in-more-ways-than-one vehicle, he strips down to his underwear screaming, "I'm on fire! I'm on fire," and imploring help of the Baby Jesus, Oprah and Tom Cruise!

AS RICKY Bobby, Ferrell whoops it up.

No matter how many times you've seen that scene in the trailer, it's still hilarious, and it also helps to illustrate Ferrell's effectiveness as a comedian.

He's one of the few funnymen out there who's completely unashamed and physically unselfconscious. His body is that of the average American male's (read, *not* a stud muffin), and he has no qualms about displaying it, or outfitting it in tight shorts and knee socks.

Ferrell's isn't the only presence that's pulling this movie together, however. There's also John C. Reilly, whose Cal Naughton Jr. is an even dimmer bulb than his best friend, but possesses hints of repressed resentment.

Soliloquy

Later on in the movie, Oscar nominee Amy Adams shines in a slightly demented, breathless 30-second soliloquy. And Cohen, with his exaggeratedly *faux* French accent articulated between clenched teeth, is a riot.

Though not consistently funny, the movie still gives away flashes of rip-roaring moments to keep any red-neck or blue-neck happy.

Bring out the fried chicken!

Materialistic messages

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

ONCE, A SAGE WALKED WITH HIS student around a small town. They passed by a place where the people were dyeing cloth. Each cloth's appearance changed as it absorbed the pigment. The wise man said: "Look at the white cloth, it looks spotless and clean. But, when it's exposed to different dyes, it can take on various colors.

"A person's consciousness is similarly affected by different things he's exposed to. Thus, he must choose what he exposes his senses to, because this will affect his consciousness."

Relevant

This story is relevant to our society, which is currently bombarded with messages from billboards dotting our highways. People worry about the physical dangers they pose, especially during typhoons or earthquakes. But, daily exposure to materialistic messages is also causing havoc on our consciousness.

We used to protect ourselves from such messages by not patronizing offensive products that we saw in newspapers or on TV. But, how do we avoid them when we see them as we drive along the highway?

Consciousness

Previously, we avoided "jumping into the vat filled with dye" if we chose to. But now, it is being "poured" into our consciousness while we are in a car or bus: "Eat this." "Wear this." "Spend—these products will make you happy!"

Simple lives

We used to lead simple lives, contented with the basic necessities. Now, we are influenced to lead complex lives—as materialistic consumers! Spare us from the pollution—both physical and spiritual.

Indeed, traveling has become dangerous. A modern sage would bring his student through a major highway like Edsa and warn, "Look at all the 'dyes' that pollute your consciousness. By the end of the trip, your mind may no longer be at peace!"

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GREENHILLS SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
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CINEMA 1 MY FIRST WEDDING 12:40, 2:45, 4:50 6:55, 9:00 GP
CINEMA 2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:00, 9:00 R18
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE BARNYARD 11:20, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55 GP
CINEMA 4 TILL I MET YOU 10:50, 1:05, 3:20 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE GUARDIAN 10:40, 1:40, 4:20 7:10, 10:00 PG-13
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EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO CLASSICO 8:00PM
OCT 12, 19, 20, 2006 ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA 8:30 PM
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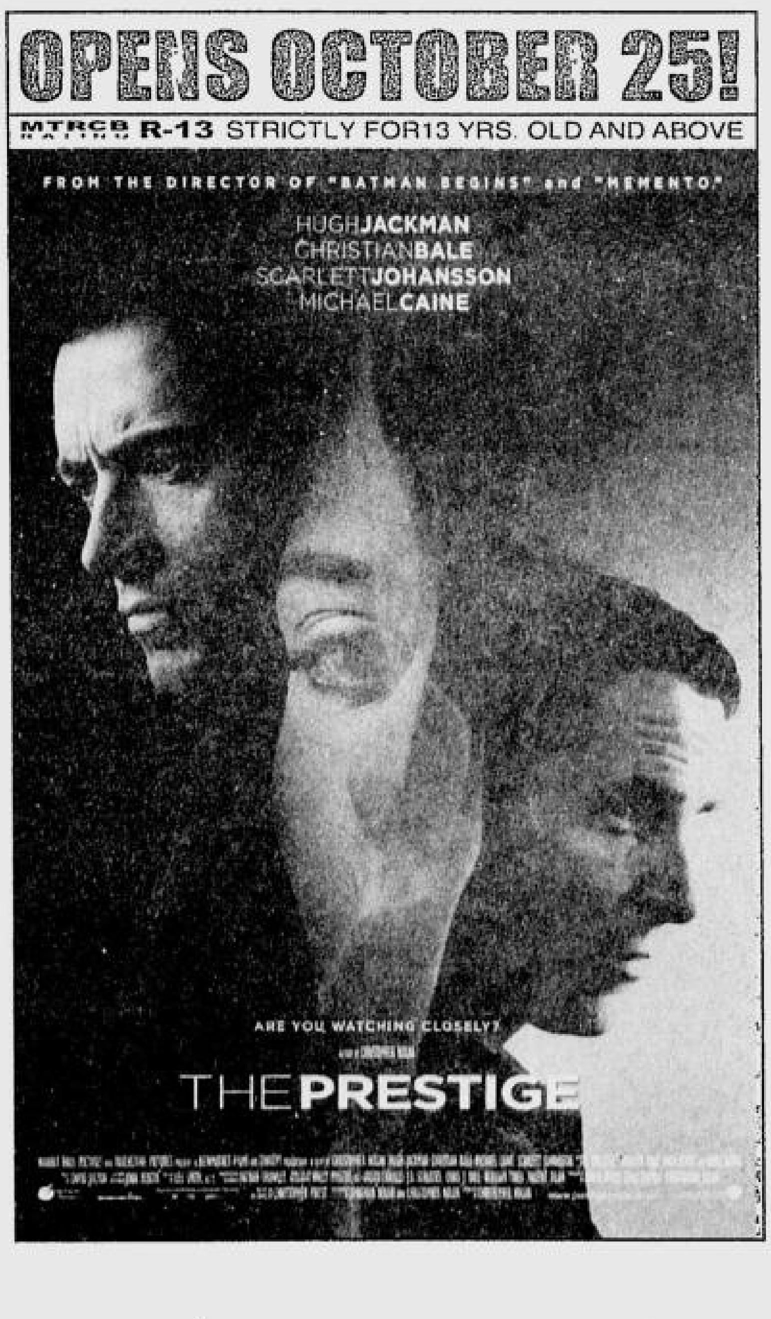
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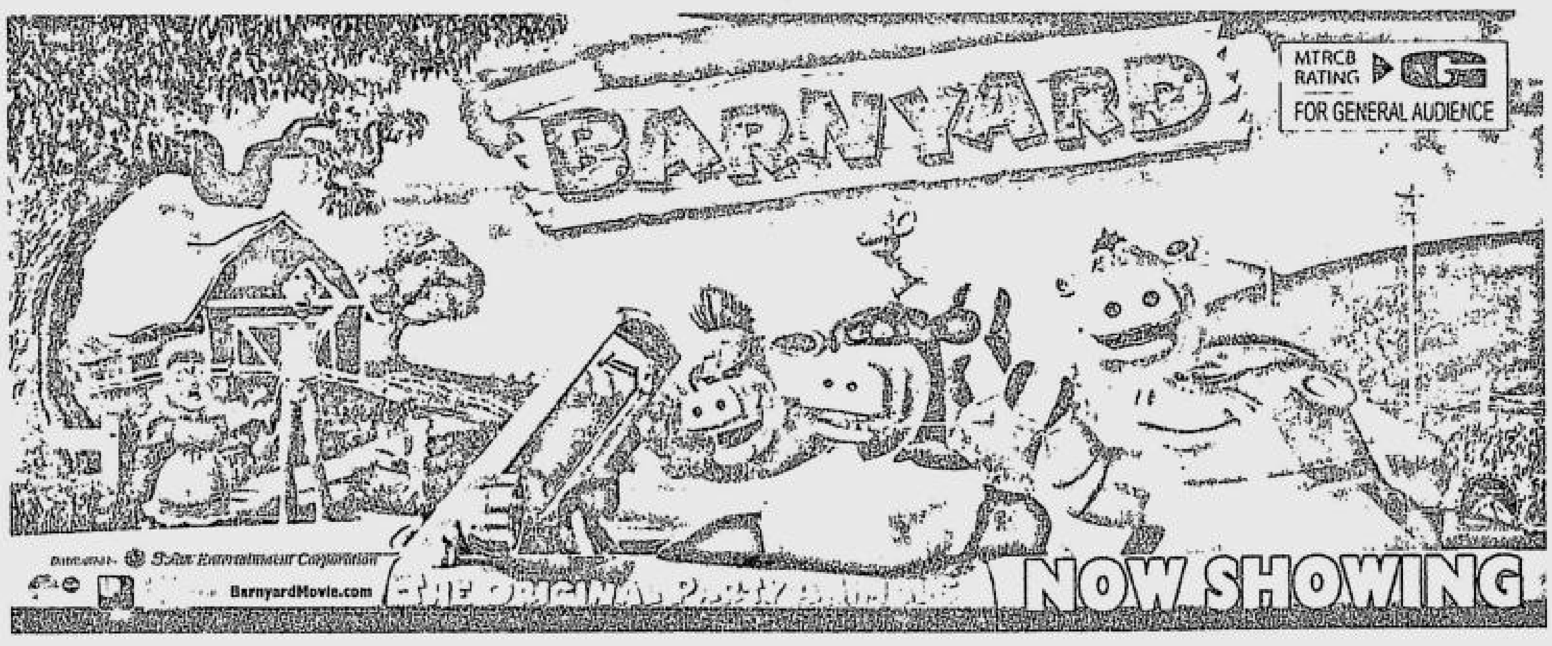
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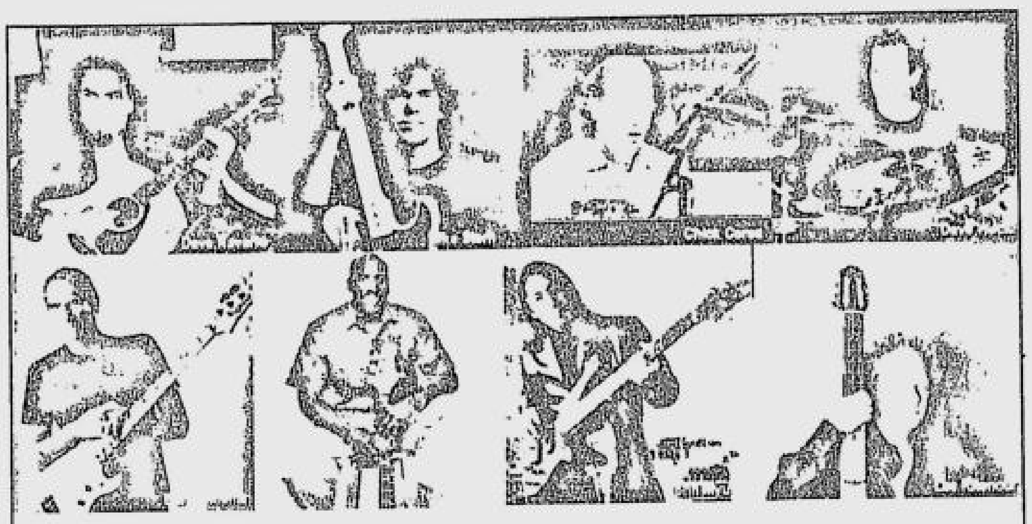

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MONTAGE

"BRAND NEW FRIDAYS." The fabulous females are back!

Freaky fun on Nickelodeon

IT'S A FRIGHT FEST ON THE NICKELODEON channel this month, with Danny Phantom's "Reign Storm" and the Rugrat's "Pre-School Daze" on "Deepavali Special" on Oct. 21 at noon and 6 p.m.

On Oct. 24 at noon and 3:20 p.m., "Dora the Explorer" visits Fairy Tale Land, followed by "Fairly Odd Parents." Also catch the Hi-Five band's new series Mondays at 8 and 11:30 a.m. And the fabulous females are back in Trollz's "Brand New Fridays" slot at 7 p.m. Log on to www.nicksplat.com.

'Open Season' at Imax

The new animated adventure comedy, "Open Season," opens in 3-D format at the Imax Theater at SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 24. In the film, Boog (voiced by Martin Lawrence), a domesticated grizzly bear, is lured into the great outdoors by Elliot (Ashton Kutcher)—with unnerving results!

'The Prestige'

Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale's new starrer, "The Prestige," will be premiered on Oct. 17 at Greenbelt 3. The stars play Victorian-era magicians whose rivalry escalates into a fierce battle of tricks and determination to uncover each other's trade secrets.

KC Concepcion

This month, KC Concepcion becomes the youngest person (at 21) to appear on the cover of Marie Claire magazine, which marks its first anniversary in November. KC talks about her recent reunion in the States with her father, Gabby, and her involvement in the Virlanie Foundation, which helps victims of abuse and exploitation.

Angel and Oyo Boy

In Yes magazine, it's Angel Locsin and Oyo Boy Sotto's turn to grace the cover, and they share details of their "dramatic" love story. Other features are on Marc Pingris and the magazine's Readers' Choice Awards.

'Anak ng Tinapa'

Jon Red's "Anak ng Tinapa," starring Ryan Eigenmann, China Cojuangco and Atong Redillas, is now on Digi-Art Video. In the digital movie, cops frame innocent people by planting drugs on them—not knowing that student filmmakers are documenting every move.

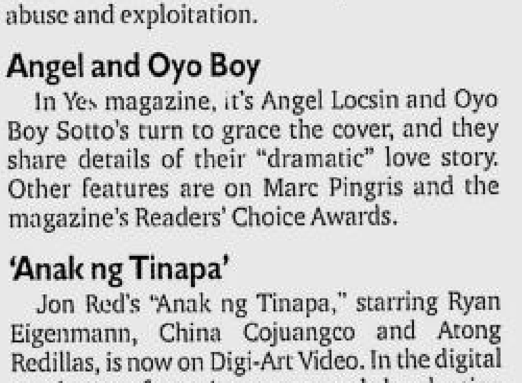
Mozart concert

Soprano Joanna Go and pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo interpret Mozart's compositions in a concert at 6 p.m. today at Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall. Call 878-4359 or 840-7000 loc. 2630.

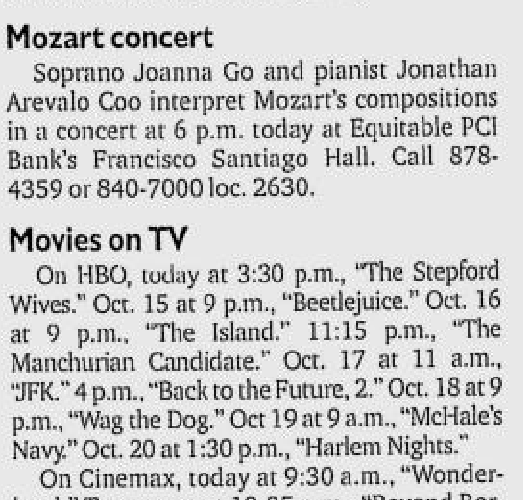
Movies on TV

On HBO, today at 3:30 p.m., "The Stepford Wives." Oct. 15 at 9 p.m., "Beetlejuice." Oct. 16 at 9 p.m., "The Island." 11:15 p.m., "The Manchurian Candidate." Oct. 17 at 11 a.m., "JFK." 4 p.m., "Back to the Future, 2." Oct. 18 at 9 p.m., "Wag the Dog." Oct 19 at 9 a.m., "McHale's Navy." Oct. 20 at 1:30 p.m., "Harlem Nights."

On Cinemax, today at 9:30 a.m., "Wonderland." Tomorrow at 10:35 p.m., "Beyond Borders." Oct. 16 at 8 a.m., "It's a Wonderful Life." 4:10 p.m., "The Eddy Duchin Story." Oct. 17 at 5:25 p.m., "The Last Samurai." Oct. 18 at 1:50 p.m., "Cape Fear." Oct. 19 at 2 p.m., "Once Upon a Time in Mexico." Oct. 20 at 1:05 p.m., "Rio Bravo."



CONCEPCION (RIGHT). Supports Virlanie Foundation.



BALE AND JACKMAN. Play rival magicians in "The Prestige."

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IN THIS ISSUE
■ ROBBIE Williams, Take That face off with new albums /H6

SATURDAY *Special*

Oscar hopefuls enliven movie screens

LOS ANGELES—IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR, and it's about to happen now.

After a summer of mindless blockbusters, movies are about to get better as Oscar contenders arrive in theaters.

Why do studios and independent distributors wait until the end of the year to unleash all the quality films at once, and crammed into a few weeks to compete for our attention? In theory, it's to keep them fresh in the minds of Academy Awards voters and writers who compile Top 10 lists in late December.

Surprise winner

But, as we saw with this year's surprise winner for best picture, that may not be working as much anymore. "Crash" came out in May 2005, at the start of summer blockbuster season—beating the much-hyped, expected winner, "Brokeback Mountain," which arrived during prime Oscar time in early December. So, perhaps release strategies can change again. But, until then, here's a look at what you can look forward to this month and beyond:

- **"The Last King of Scotland."** Forest Whitaker is devastating as Idi Amin. He can be charming and generous one minute, then fly into vicious rage the next. In showing the many conflicting sides of the Ugandan dictator, he actually makes you feel sorry for him.
- **"The Queen."** They may as well give Helen Mirren the Oscar now for her nuanced, humorous, ultimately sympathetic portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II during the week after Princess Diana's death. Stephen Frears' film is both dryly funny and pointedly observant.

Brutal violence

- **"The Departed."** Vintage Martin Scorsese: Beautifully edited, brutal violence with a rich sense of culture and place. Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio and Jack Nicholson lead the all-star cast in this cat-and-mouse thriller about cops and mobsters in Boston.
- **"Infamous."** Maybe the timing is off. A year after Philip Seymour Hoffman's Oscar-winning performance as Truman Capote, in which he completely immersed himself, here comes another film about Capote researching his true-crime classic, "In Cold Blood." (To be fair, they were in the works at the same time.) We just want to see how Toby Jones and Sandra Bullock compare.
- **"Flags of Our Fathers."** After winning best picture and best director Oscars for 2004's "Million Dollar Baby," Clint Eastwood is back with an epic about the soldiers who raised the flag at the Battle of Iwo Jima, creating the classic image from World War II. Ryan Phillippe, Adam Beach and Barry Pepper are among the stars.

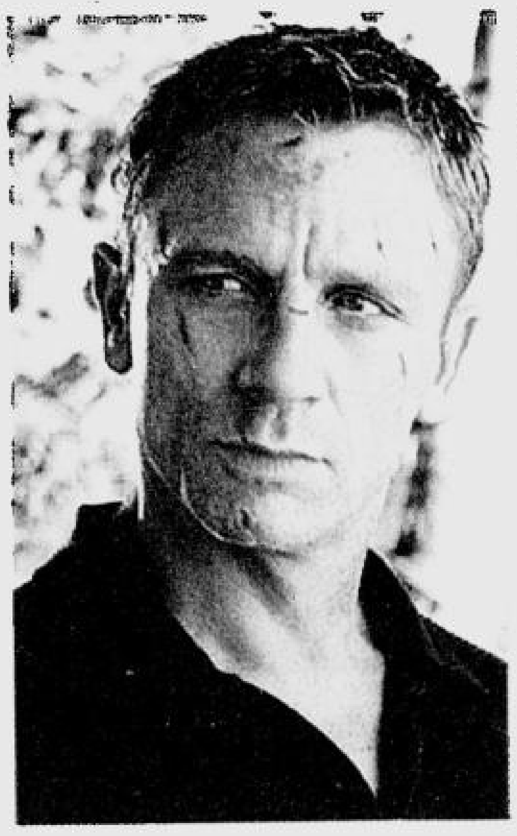
Eclectic all-star cast

- **"Bobby."** A look at 22 people who were at the Ambassador Hotel the night Robert Kennedy was assassinated. The words "written and directed by Emilio Estevez" don't exactly inspire confidence, but who knows? The eclectic all-star cast includes Anthony Hopkins, Lindsay Lohan, William H. Macy, Helen Hunt and Laurence Fishburne.
- **"Casino Royale."** Who cares that he's blond? Daniel Craig has proven in films like "Layer Cake" and "Munich" that he's sexy,

OSCAR/H2

BULLOCK. Plays Harper Lee in latest Capote movie.

ROSE, KNOWLES AND HUDSON. Topbill big-screen version of "Dreamgirls."



CRAIG. Reenergizes James Bond film franchise.

WHITAKER. Plays Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland."

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1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
PREMIERE
THE DEPARTED

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE / BANYARD
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GUARDIAN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 8433994
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE PULSE

THEATRES
1 SNAKE ON THE PLANE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 ZOOM

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE DEPARTED
5 BARNYARD
6 THE GUARDIAN
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 MY FIRST WEDDING
10 TILL I MET YOU

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 RESERVED

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 ZOOM
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 POSSESSED BY EVIL
3 THE BREED
4 TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE/ BANYARD
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TILL I MET YOU

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DESCENT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 FLY BOYS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 NAKED EYE
3 PERLAS
4 SOUND OF THUNDER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 WILD ORCHIDS
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 THE GUARDIAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 TILL I MET YOU

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 DOS EKIS

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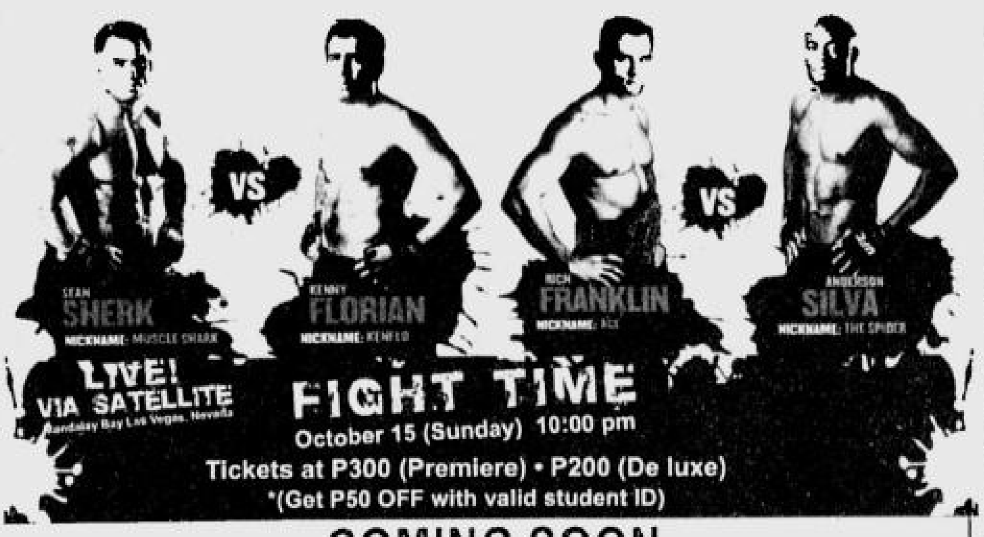

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•Oct 25	STICK IT	•Nov 22	THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

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T-REX
11:00AM 12:30PM 2:00PM 3:00PM 8:00PM 9:30
SUPERMAN RETURNS
5:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 MY FIRST WEDDING
2 PULSE
3 THE DEPARTED
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 BARNYARD
6 TILL I MET YOU
PREMIERE CINEMA
DEAD OR ALIVE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
THE GUARDIAN
CENTERSTAGE
THE GUARDIAN
CINEMA 1
THE GUARDIAN
CINEMA 2
THE DEPARTED
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 STEP UP
4 THE DEPARTED
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
THE BREED
THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 FIRST DAY HIGH
10 MY FIRST WEDDING
11 PULSE
12 THE DEPARTED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 THE DEPARTED
6 STEP UP
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 MY FIRST WEDDING
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 FIRST DAY HIGH
12 PULSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 MY FIRST WEDDING
THE BREED
3 STEP UP
4 PULSE
5 TILL I MET YOU
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 THE DEPARTED
10 DEAD OR ALIVE
11 FLY BOYS
ZOOM

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
TILL I MET YOU
BARNYARD
RESERVED
FIRST DAY HIGH
FIRST DAY HIGH
8 DEAD OR ALIVE
THE DEPARTED
PULSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
THE GUARDIAN
PULSE
MY FIRST WEDDING
4 THE DEPARTED
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 PULSE
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 STEP UP
7 MY FIRST WEDDING
8 THE DEPARTED
9 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
3 PULSE
4 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
3 STEP UP
4 THE DEPARTED
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 THE BREED
THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 FIRST DAY HIGH
10 MY FIRST WEDDING
PULSE
THE DEPARTED

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333201-04
THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
THE DEPARTED
STEP UP

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
TILL I MET YOU
TILL I MET YOU
FIRST DAY HIGH
DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
PULSE

movietime PROMO
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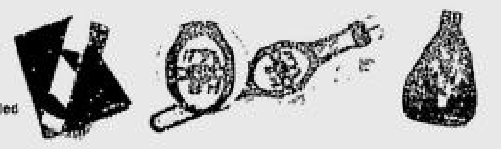

Where did Jake Fischer (Ashton Kutcher) go after graduation?
ADIKKO AAAKLS
Answer: ______
Send in your answers together with your name, age, address and contact number to moviesdicts_smcinema@yahoo.com on or before October 17. Ten (10) lucky winners will be chosen from all the entries received. Multiple entries sent will only be counted as a single entry. Winners will be notified through phone.
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MTRCB Rating: PG-13

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE BREED
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 PULSE
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 THE DEPARTED
8 MY FIRST WEDDING

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
FLY BOYS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TILL I MET YOU

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
WICKER MAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
SCOOP
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU,ME AND DUPREE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 FLY BOYS
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197638-39
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE GUARDIANS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
TILL I MET YOU
2 THE NUN
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 PULSE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
STEP UP
DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TILL I MET YOU

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
THE DEPARTED
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 FLY BOY
4 SCOOP
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BREED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
THE BREED
2 RESERVE
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 RESERVED
8 FLY BOYS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE DEPARTED
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
6 FLY BOYS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
DEAD OR ALIVE
TILL I MET YOU
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
THE BREED

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"CRASH." Dashed "Brokeback Mountain's" best picture hopes.

Oscar hopefuls...

From page H1

charismatic, daring and physical enough to step into James Bond's tuxedo. And, no offense to the exceedingly capable Pierce Brosnan, but someone needed to breathe new life into this decades-old franchise.

- "The Good German." Cate Blanchett and George Clooney in a post-World War II murder-mystery directed by Clooney's frequent collaborator, Steven Soderbergh. All the elements seem to be in place. (Unless it gets mixed up with "The Good Shepherd," starring Angelina Jolie and Matt Damon, and directed by Robert De Niro, which comes out two weeks later.)

Splashy musical

- "Dreamgirls." It wasn't that long ago that "Chicago" won the Academy Award for best picture. Now, another big, splashy musical goes from stage to screen, starring Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé Knowles, Eddie Murphy, Anika Noni Rose, and former "American Idol" powerhouse, Jennifer Hudson, with Bill Condon ("Gods and Monsters") directing.

- "For Your Consideration." It may not win any Oscars of its own, but this Christopher Guest send-up of awards-season frenzy will probably be the funniest (and most honest) thing to come out of Hollywood this year. The whole gang is back: Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey, Fred Willard and, of course, Guest himself. *AP*

CLOONEY AND BLANCHETT (CENTER AND RIGHT, RESPECTIVELY). Team up in "The Good German."

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE GUARDIAN
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00 7:00, [illegible]
2 BARNYARD
MTRCB GP
1:05 [illegible]15, 5:30, [illegible]45 [illegible]0:00
3 TILL I MET YOU
MTRCB GP
12:20 2:45, 5:10 [illegible]:35, 10:00
4 THE DEPARTED
MTRCB R-13
12:20 3:40, 6:5[illegible] 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
MTRCB R-18
1:05 3:15 5:30 [illegible]45 10:00
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The making of a teen heartthrob

By Behn Cervantes

TROY DONAHUE WAS A TYPICAL HOLLYwood concoction. His name reminds us of Helen, Achilles and Ajax. Why, he might as well have been called Rock or Ty, as male starlets were often christened by imaginative press agents in the glamorous heyday of Hollywood.

This particular Troy was, however, given an Irish last name—Donahue—for greater mass appeal. In the same vein, Rock was a Hudson, and Ty a Hardin. Such regular-Joe names brought them right down to earth. Other fabulously named male stars came and went, however.

Fixture

Only a few actors remained fixtures in the stellar heights of stardom. Rock Hudson exited rather dramatically—his death was preceded by the announcement of his having contracted AIDS.

Troy was the son of a businessman and a would-be actress and stage mom who inspired in her son the dreams she gave up for marriage. After all, Troy was blond, tall and possessed matinee-idol good looks. So, soon after Warner Brothers contracted the young hopeful, he took the route taken by many starlets:

Impact

He was prominently featured in magazine covers, while appearing in small roles in B-movies. It wasn't long before his handsome face and tousled hair captured the imagination of teenage female fans, who were beginning to have a considerable impact at the box office.

Troy Donahue

DONAHUE. All-American good looks.

To boost his stellar stock further, he appeared on popular TV shows, "Hawaiian Eye" and "Surfside Six," which made him a familiar face to thousands of pubescent admirers all over America.

The world was also beginning to take note of the wholesome and suave young man with the All-American look. He was pristine-looking, and looked like he smelled of cologne. If he looked collegiate, it was because he was in fact a journalism student at Columbia University.

Biggest splash

However, he made his biggest splash when he starred alongside Hollywood's favorite teenage star, Sandra Dee, as well as with other beautiful, young actresses like Suzanne Pleshette and Connie Stevens.

Alas, the teenage frenzy over Sandra and Troy's team-up was a passing phase, and he soon disappeared from the scene in the early '70s. However, around the same time, he came to the Philippines to make an action film about our native *arnis*, in which he shared a kissing scene with Daria Ramirez.

He returned to Hollywood in the '80s, playing disheveled characters who were hardly recognizable from the dashing protagonists he portrayed in "A Distant Trumpet" and "The Perfect Furlough."

Substantial role

His last substantial role was in "The Godfather, Part II." After that, Troy was relegated to cameo roles in forgettable films like "Cry Baby." In fact, he was so down and out that he settled for "basement budget" productions geared for the home-video market.

These days, Troy Donahue is often the subject of "Whatever happened to" games. But, once upon the glorious '60s, the actor was a luminous presence on the big screen. *Sic transit* even perpetual "teen" stardom?

Martin Short skewers everyone on Broadway

SHORT. Drawn to spoofing human foibles.

NEW YORK—MARTIN SHORT POKES fun at gays, Jews, Christians and celebrities in his Broadway musical, even cracking jokes about the deaths of Lady Diana and diet guru Robert Atkins.

Yet the comic actor who rose to stardom through the Second City troupe and television's "Saturday Night Live" says he is not trying to be mean or irreverent. He just wants to be funny and, judging by nonstop laughs from the audience in two recent shows, he has succeeded.

Limits

Short, 56, says there are limits to what he will satirize, although it's hard to tell that in "Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me," which is on an open-ended run at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre.

"I'd never go out and do a sketch about AIDS. I wouldn't feel comfortable about it. But I will make fun of a lot of things," Short told Reuters in an interview while sipping tea at Sardi's, the iconic Broadway restaurant.

Royalty is fair game, however, with Short's celebrity interviewer Jiminy Glick asking, "So where were you when the queen had Diana killed?" Nor is religion spared with a spoof of the musical "Godspell" featuring Gary Christ, the stepbrother of Jesus.

"If someone is so thin-skinned that they can't laugh at the idea of the stepbrother to Jesus, then off you go," he said. "I haven't heard anyone's been offended but I'm sure someone might."

Short is finding laughs inside an envelope already pushed out by others like Mel Brooks with "The Producers," television's Larry David or comedienne Sarah Silverman, who have obliterated the constraints of political correctness from the 1980s and 1990s.

Holocaust jokes

"I don't even think you can do Holocaust jokes," Short said. "What Mel was doing in 'The Producers' was making Hitler into a buffoon. That you can do.

"Usually where I'm drawn is human foible." In Short's world, celebrities, starting with himself, have plenty of foibles.

Making a satire of a one-man show, and with help from a supporting cast, the

MARTIN/ H4

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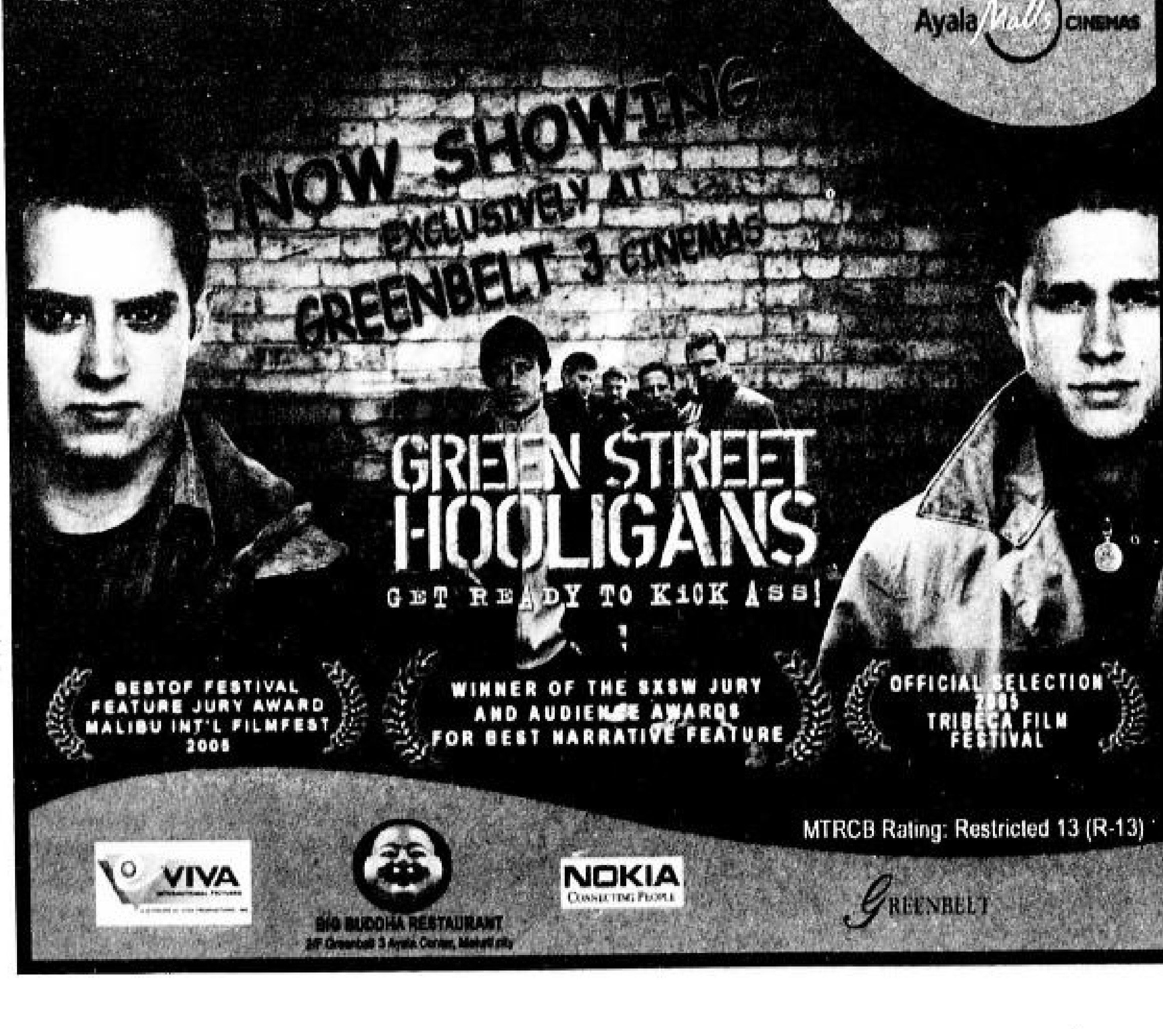
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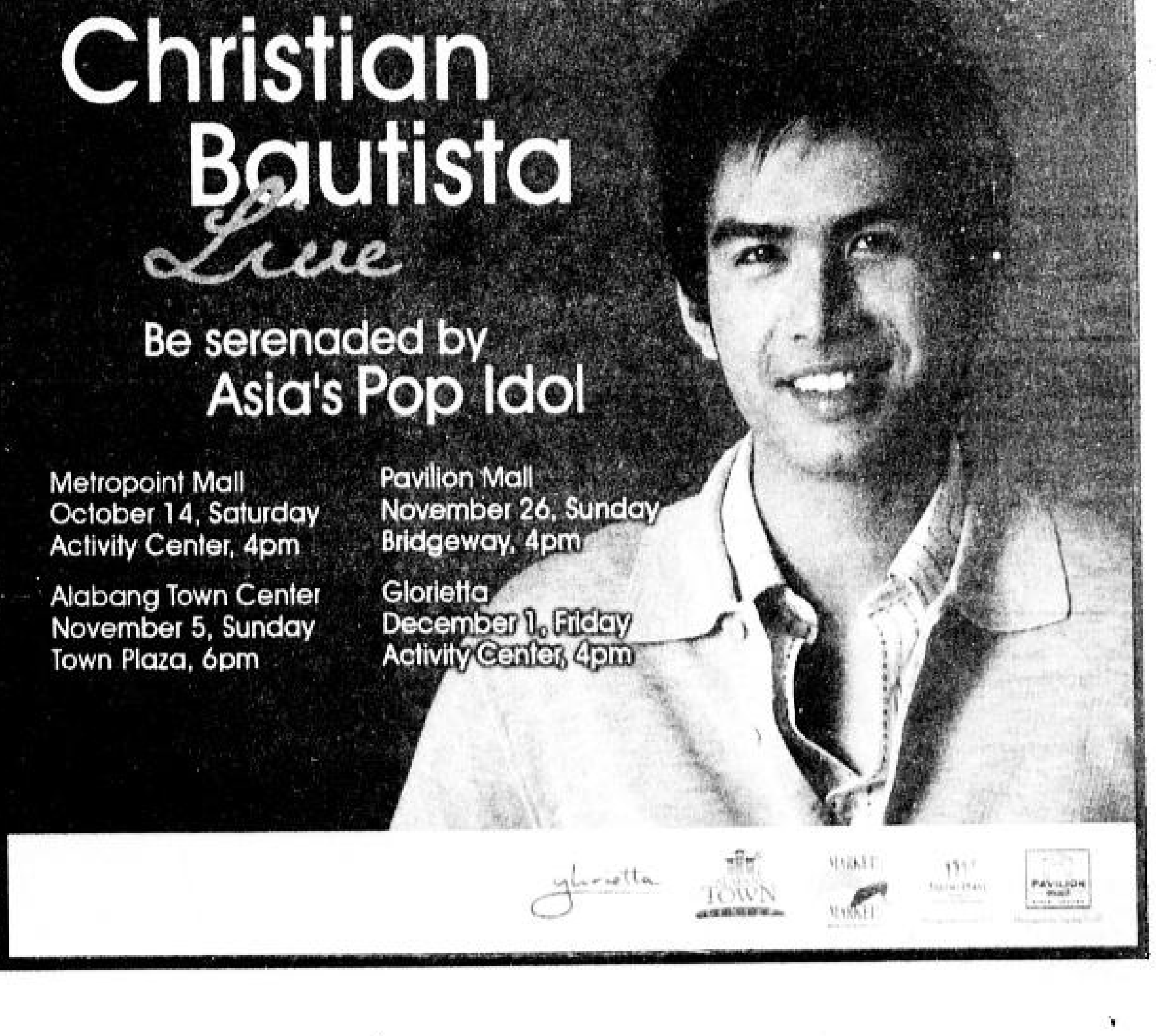
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Tasty homecoming

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

I'VE JUST ARRIVED FROM THE culinary paradise of LA and San Francisco, where brilliant, new ideas for cuisine don't seem to end. I dined at the House of Prime Rib in Frisco. *Grabe, ang sarap!*

Healthier meals

In LA, I went to a Brazilian restaurant whose concept of carving superior cuts of meat right by your table floored me. Having eaten too much meat, I looked forward to healthier meals in Manila.

That plan, however, did not immediately take effect. Upon arrival, despite the rainy weather, my mom, sister Nina and Aunt Cora headed for Ma Mon Luk, because the temptation of its piping-hot *mami* and steaming, special *siopao* was just too much to resist.

That evening, I was determined to have a delicious and healthy meal. I ended up at Katre on Tomas Morato, behind Alfredo's Steak House. I started with a different kind of Caesar's salad, which had loose leaves of Romaine lettuce and a Caesar dipping sauce. Nice!

Seasonings

Then, I had the most delicious sandwich I've had in years: grilled chicken meat squeezed between mustard seed-topped, toasted Vietnamese bread, stuffed with a variety of seasonings.

On the side were herbed, chopped tomatoes, fried onion rings, *borsin*-style cream cheese and, as dipping sauce, yellow-green honey mustard. I also loved their gambas—mildly-spiced, sautéed and seasoned shrimps.

Their other best-sellers include *quesadilla* stuffed with spiced beef; seafood pasta; steamed fish, and *liempo tim*—the leanest of its kind—simmered for hours to shed off most of the fat, and braised in a sweetish soy-star anise sauce. This dish is so tender, it can be sliced with a spoon. A must-try!

Affordable

Another good deal about this place is that its prices seem to have remained the same over the years. Check out Katre at 103 Scout Loscano. Call 374-6650 or 373-4705.

Happy eating!

E-mail sandydaza@shaw.ca

Martin Short...

From page H3

show tells the story of Short's career rise—loosely based on the truth, sprinkled with heavy doses of exaggeration and outright fabrication.

Along the way he eviscerates all the show business personalities he and his cast can imitate, from Short's aping of Katharine Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton to the cast's takes on Britney Spears, Ellen DeGeneres and Joan Rivers. One bit even makes fun of Broadway director Bob Fosse's heart attack.

Short also revives some of the characters he has created, such as Glick, entertainer Jackie Rogers Jr. and Ed Grimley.

Challenge

He warns the audience that, while much of the story is true, a lot is made up, and he lays down the challenge of "See if you can tell the difference."

For the record, he tells Reuters, "I've never been to rehab. I'm Catholic, not Jewish. I am married, for 25 years, with two children. And I'm not broke!" *Reuters*

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4 THE DEPARTED
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5 THE GUARDIAN
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6 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 BARNYARD
8 PULSE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
9 STEP UP
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10 MY FIRST WEDDING
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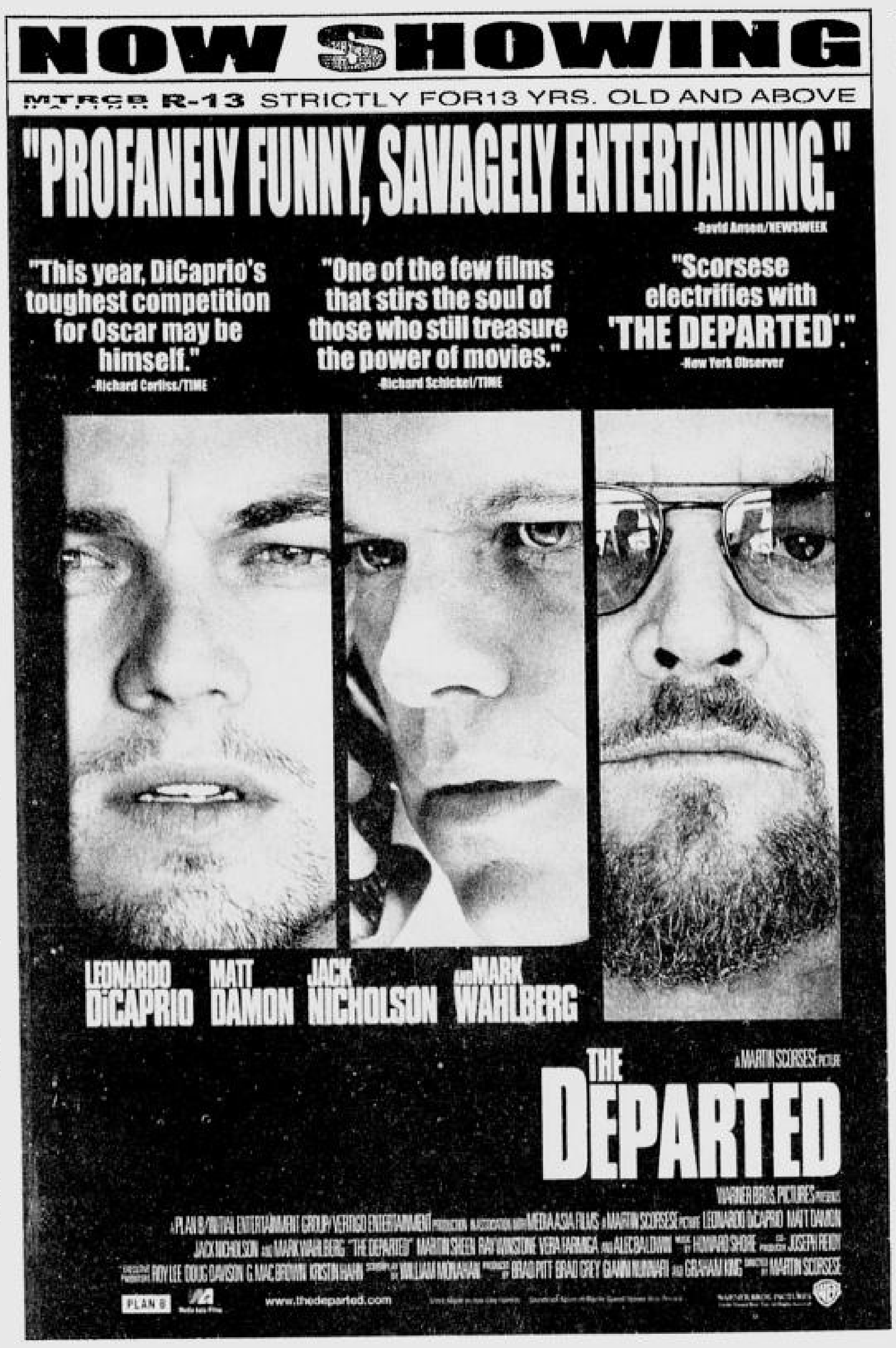

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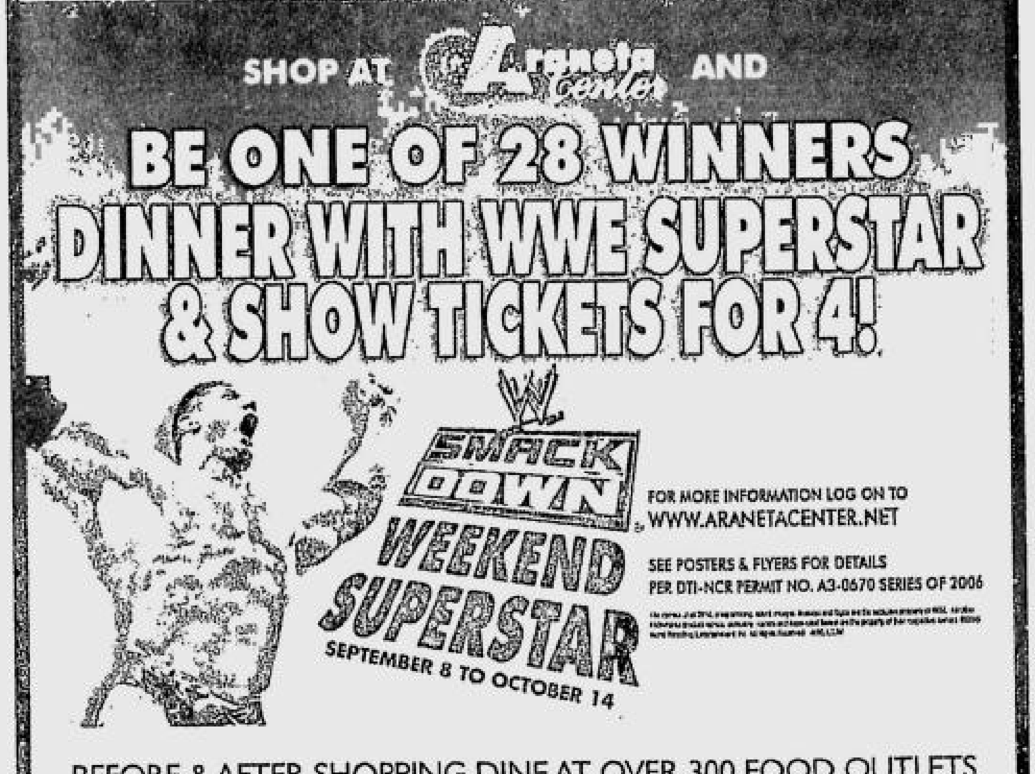

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"CLERKS" AND "GROOMSMEN." Share key themes about thirtysomething guys who refuse to face adulthood.

Young directors tell Gen X-ers to grow up

LOS ANGELES—THEY BROKE OUT of the independent movie pack at the Sundance Film Festival in the mid-1990s as voices of Generation X, and a decade later, writer/directors Kevin Smith and Edward Burns have something new to tell their peers: Grow up.

Smith's new movie, "Clerks II," and Burns' "The Groomsmen" are now playing in New York and Los Angeles, with plans to roll out more widely in the coming weeks.

Sequel

Smith's film is a sequel to his 1994 comedy, "Clerks," about two slackers working in a convenience store, and while Burns' "Groomsmen" is not a follow-up, it will remind audiences of "The Brothers McMullen," his 1995 hit about three brothers dealing with love and family ties.

While far different in story and style, the films share key themes. New Jersey-native Smith, 35, and New Yorker Burns, 38, look at guys in their mid-30s who refuse to face adulthood.

Moreover, the movies join a growing list of works in pop culture, such as Christopher Noxon's book, "Rejuvenile," that reflect a generation which, as it matured, took its childhood with it.

"It feels like our generation was given this bizarre, 10-year stay of execution of, like, not growing up. My father's generation made no bones about it. You got a job. You had a family, and supported it," Smith explained.

Burns' take is a slightly different: "Our lives revolved around fun. When you've been doing that for 10 or 15 years, the idea of giving it up is difficult," he said. "If you don't have kids, you probably don't recognize the upside."

Whatever the psychology, both directors said that after recent years of making less personal films, it was time to reach back into their own lives for stories about getting married, having kids and moving on.

Spotlight

In "Clerks II," mini-mart co-workers Dante Hicks (Brian O'Halloran) and Randal Graves (Jeff Anderson) return to the spotlight. They now have weathered faces, bigger waistlines, and jobs flipping burgers at Mooby's fast-food restaurant.

The movie takes place on Dante's last day at work—before he moves to Florida to get married and work for his father-in-law.

He is leaving Randal behind, but before he can go, life has a few surprises for the pair of childhood friends, including a performance by a sex worker specializing in bestiality.

The movie is filled with hallmarks of Smith's past work: Rapid-fire dialogue that offers insights into his generation's thinking, and rude jokes about farts, feces, and having sex.

For years, Smith vowed not to make a sequel to the first film, and he denies "Clerks II" is merely an attempt to cash in on the notoriety of its predecessor. "Clerks" was a hit on video, and spawned a comic book and an animated TV series.

"If I was going to try to make money, I would have made (big-budget movie) 'The Green Hornet.' I would have made $5 million just to direct," Smith stated. "Our movie's whole budget was five million bucks!"

Labor of love

Similarly for Burns, "Groomsmen" was a labor of love. It was derived from an old script he wrote after 2001's "Sidewalks of New York" and 2002's "Ash Wednesday" bombed at the box office. The original script aspired to be a mainstream Hollywood comedy, but Burns said he could not finish it, because he was not good at broad, Hollywood-style comedy.

He credits his wife, model Christy Turlington, with whom he has two children, for telling him to take the old script out, dust it off and "write the story you want to write."

"Groomsmen" centers on one guy, Paulie (played by Burns), in a group of five high school buddies on New York's Long Island, who reunite for some male bonding before Paulie gets married to his pregnant girlfriend, Sue (Brittany Murphy).

Paulie is having second thoughts and, in fact, over the course of the week, his buddies all confess to being burdened with issues of adulthood they would rather not face.

His cousin Mike (Jay Mohr), for instance, still lives with his dad, and mows lawns for a living—like he did in high school.

If "Groomsmen" sounds like it might be a typical beer-soaked comedy with guys visiting strip bars, it's not. These five thirtysomethings play softball and go out for quiet dinners.

Raunchy

Instead of focusing on raunchy partying, Burns turns his attention to their personal issues, and what emerges is a human drama about men passing from boyhood to adult life.

"These are the movies I love as a moviegoer. Even though, they are few and far between, I still aspire to be that same kind of filmmaker I was," he said. "I've matured, and I think, the writing has gotten better."

Reuters

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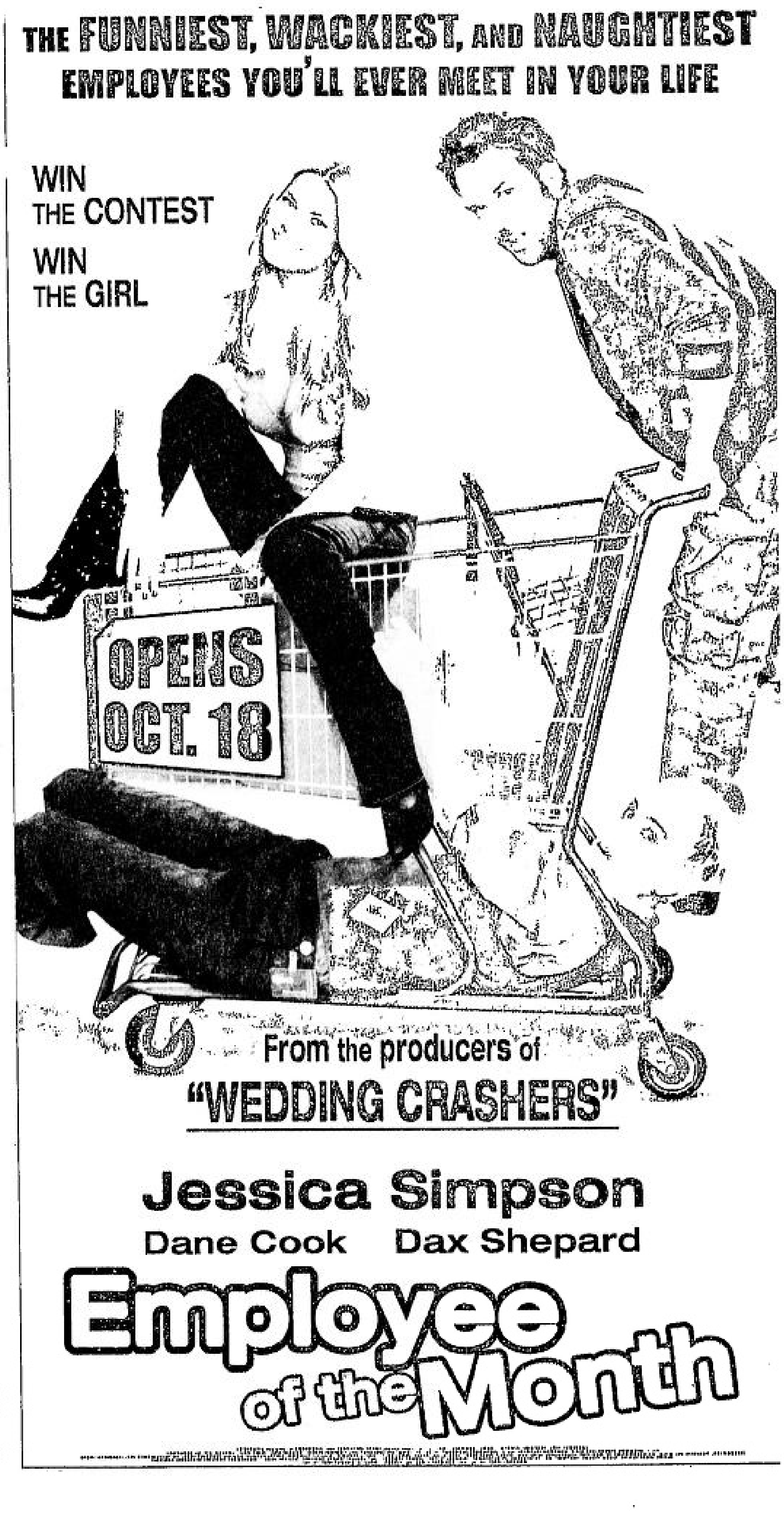
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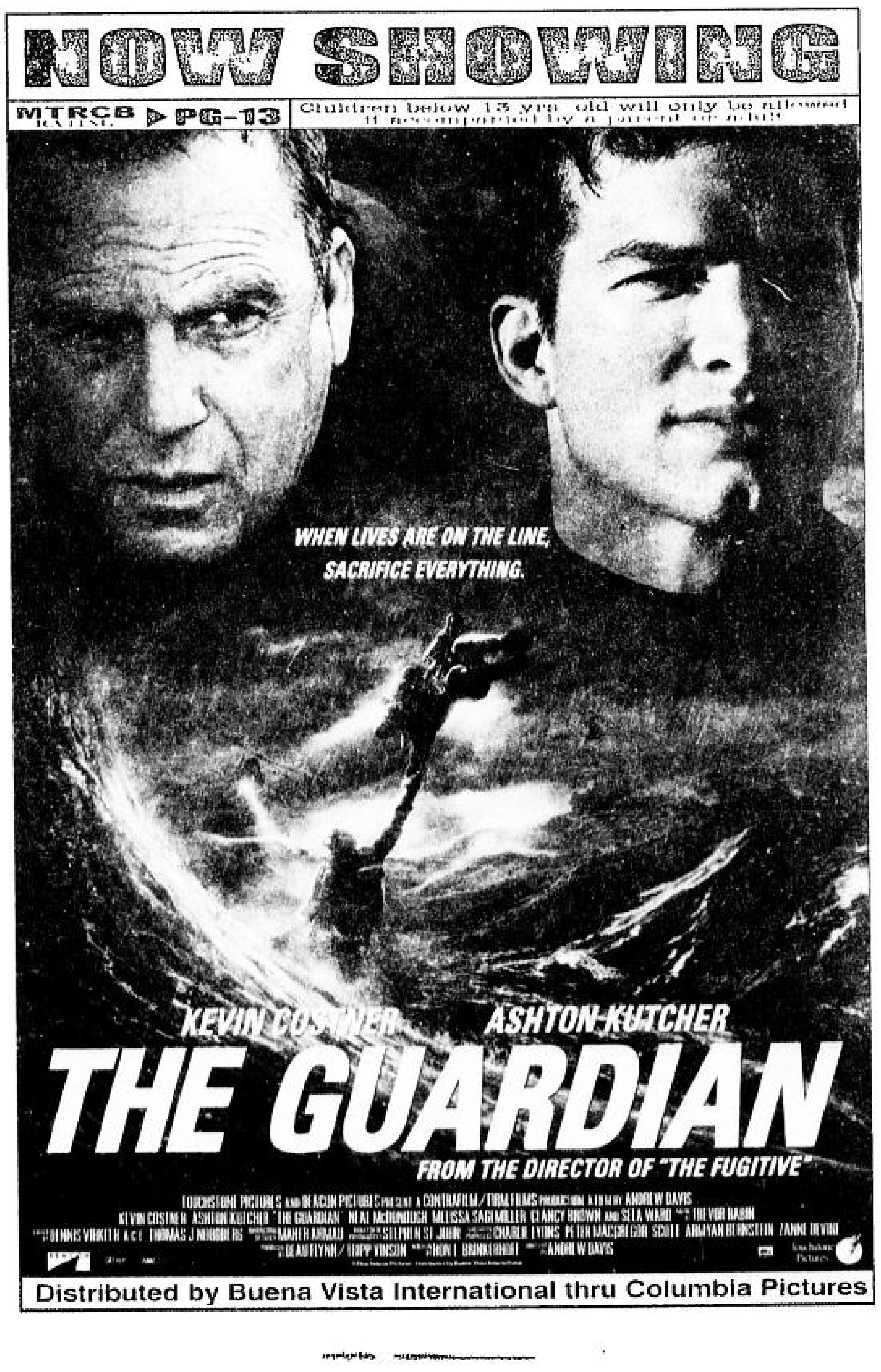
Jessica Simpson
Dane Cook Dax Shepard
Employee of the Month


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
WHEN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE,
SACRIFICE EVERYTHING.
KEVIN COSTNER
ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

WILLIAMS. Has forged a successful solo career.

Robbie Williams, Take That face off with new albums

LONDON—ROBBIE Williams and his former bandmates from Take That go head to head this month with the release of an album and a DVD on the same day.

Williams, who has forged a successful solo career since leaving Take That, and who frequently makes digs at his former bandmates during gigs, is releasing his new album, "Rudebox," on Oct. 23.

The new collection follows last year's "Intensive Care," which, according to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry trade group, was the top-selling album in Europe last year—it sold more than five million copies.

Documentary

Take That is releasing a DVD, "The Ultimate Tour—Live in Manchester," on the same day, which features a documentary about the build up to the band's reunion—after splitting in 1996—and successful return to the stage. Take That is also promoting a new album, "Beautiful World."

Williams has asked young filmmakers to make seven short films to complement his new album, and is holding a competition for the eighth film to accompany the track "The 80s."

Williams will be on the panel of judges, and the winner will receive 7,500 pounds in prize money.

Music

"This is the record I've always wanted to make," Williams announced in a statement. It has reignited how I think about what I can do with my music."

Speaking about the film competition, he added: "Just like in music, these days, you can create a masterpiece out of an i-book and digital footage as well as you can in a fancy studio."

Reuters

TAKE THAT. Latest collection caps effective comeback.

ANGAT ANG PINOY BUONG LINGGO

SABADO

1:00 pm Wowowee
Maaga ang pamasko ni Kuya Willie dahil may Christmas album launch siya na handog sa'yo!

Nagmamahal, Kapamilya
Kilalanin ang Luzon sisters-
tatlong magkakapatid na sinubok ng SARS sa Hong Kong.
Starring: Jodi Sta. Maria, Desiree Del Valle at Aiza Marquez

Let's Go
Malalaman na ba ni Norman ang lihim ni Bangs?

Star Magic Presents
John Wayne Sace and Sandara Park sa pag-iibigang walang kinikilalang lahi, Korean man o Pinoy.

Komiks presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko
Ang Pinoy adventurer vs. the evil mambabarang.
Guest stars: Bea Alonzo • Glydel Mercado • Lito Pimentel
Ricardo Cepeda • James Blanco • Michelle Madrigal

Special guests sina
King of Comedy DOLPHY
at SARAH GERONIMO.

John En Shirley

TV Patrol Sabado
Mga balitang dito mo lang mababalitaan.

XXX Exklusibong Explosibong Expose

Pinoy Dream Academy
Sino kina Kristoff, Iya, Michelle at RJ ang susunod na aalis ng Academy?

Aalog-alog
Gusto na ni Keanna na ayusin ang umaalog na bahay niya.
Pero paano kung di pumayag ang multong si Kuya Cesar?

Sports Unlimited
Join the thrill seekers as they explore South Africa.

Angawin ni Juday ang asawa ni Maria!
NABUKING NG XXX ANG ISANG MORNING SEX CLUB.

LINGGO

12:00 noon ASAP '06
OctoBirthday celebration nina Christian Bautista, Erik Santos, Maja Salvador, Bea Alonzo, Angelika Dela Cruz, Vina Morales, Sam Concepcion.

Your Song Ang Soundtrack ng Lovelife Mo
Now playing: "ANNIE BATUNGBAKAL" by Hotdog
Starring Vhong Navarro and Toni Gonzaga

Love Spell presents Charm and Crystal
Ang magical finale ng Charm and Crystal.
Starring: Shaina Magdayao, Rayver Cruz, Kim Chui & Gerald Anderson

4:00 pm The Buzz

Mga kontrobersyal na isyung showbiz bibigyang linaw!

6:00 pm Goin' Bulilit
Barbero, brownout at buhay sa kalsada- Bulilit style!

TV Patrol Linggo

Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo?
Mga tips ni Korina para di malubog sa utang.

Sharon ROCKS!
Makiki-headbang si Mega with rockin' bands!
Featuring Rocksteddy, Calla Lily, Imago and Sponge Cola!

Pinoy Dream Academy
Ibinigay na nila ang lahat, pero kulang pa rin ba?
Sinu-sino ang magiging probationary scholars?

Sunday's Best
Bituing Walang Ningning. Himig ng Pasasalamat
Isang pasasalamat na concert kasama ang Bituin cast, Aga Muhlach, Sam Milby, Anne Curtis and many more.
Makiki-jam din ang Pinoy Dream Academy scholars.

Weekdays ito ang bagong ALL-TIME BIGTIME

10:40 am Homeboy
Mas masayang umaga para sa mas maraming Pinoy.

Pasion De Amor
Umiinit na ang pagmamahalan sa nalalapit na pagtatapos ng pinakamainit na telenovela.

Pilipinas, Game K N B?
31 na ang naging milyonaryo sa game show ng bayan.

Wowowee
Sa mga buwan ng 'BER' tulad ng OctoBER, NovemBER, at DecemBER mas maraming kasiyahan dahil mas paaagahin namin ang Pasko ninyo!

Kapamilya Cinema
Monday: Ang Titser Kong Pogi
Tuesday: Kriminal
Wednesday: Di Pwedeng Hindi Pwede
Thursday: Ang Boyfriend Kong Gamol
Friday: Ika-13 Kapitulo

Primetime Bida Pagkatapos ng TV PATROL WORLD

Kapamilya Deal or No Deal
WARNING: THIS SHOW IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART
Ang pinaka-exciting at suspenseful na gameshow sa Primetime.

Super Inggo
Kakayanin ba ng mga superheroes ang bagsik ng Halimaw sa Banga?

Maging Sino Ka Man
Hanggan kailan matatago ni Eli si Jackie?
Ang teleserye na binubuo ng powerhouse cast nina John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Anne Curtis at Sam Milby.

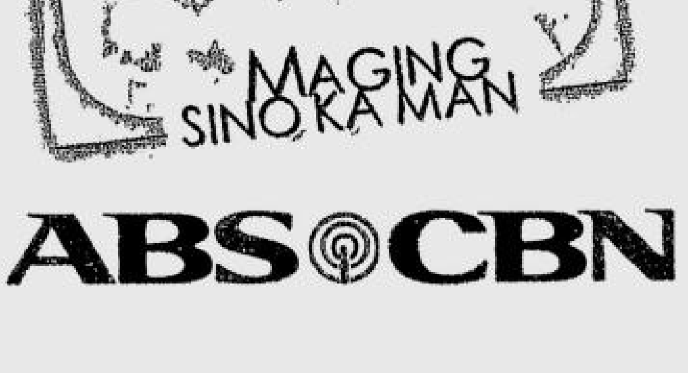
Crazy For You
Mamahalin pa rin ba ni Wacky (Luis Manzano) si Janice (Toni Gonzaga) kung malaman niyang nagpapanggap lang ang dalaga?

Pinoy Dream Academy
Pakonti na nang pakonti ang mga scholars.
Sino ang tatagal upang makilala bilang superstar?

Maalaala Mo Kaya
Isang pag-ibig na hahadlangan. Kaya ba nila ipagtanggol ang kanilang pagmamahalan? Kim Chui and Gerald Anderson

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ASAP '06
OCT BIRTHDAYS
Bituing Walang Ningning
HIMIG NG PASASALAMAT



ANGAT ANG KABATAANG PINOY

ABS CBN